

WHIPS CURB BACKBENCH REBELLION

'Don't embarrass Thatcher' plea

By JAMES WIGHTMAN Political Correspondent
AN appeal to Conservative MPs not to embarrass the Prime Minister when she is away on an important overseas tour last night helped Ministers to reduce a threatened large Tory rebellion against the latest Government curb on local authority spending.

Three Conservative MPs voted against the Government and about 30 others abstained, but the Government easily won a Commons division on a Labour motion by 325-225, a majority of 100.

The Tory dissent was about half what had looked possible after Mr Jenkin, Environment Secretary, had announced the day before that local councils were to be prevented from spending £1 billion of their receipts from council house sales.

Commons Debate—P6

A powerful Government whipping operation yesterday stressed how bad it would look for Mrs Thatcher—visiting China, Hongkong and the United States this week—if there were a serious Conservative rebellion during her absence.

MPs were also warned that a big Tory vote against a key part of the Government's public expenditure policy could affect the state of the pound.

Mr John Wakeham, Government Chief Whip, who was seriously injured in the Brighton hotel bombing, made his first appearance—wearing a cast and a walking stick—in a Commons division.

Lord Whitelaw, in waiting

Viscount Whitelaw, who is in charge of the Government during the Prime Minister's absence, watched cautiously from the Gallery as MPs voted a three-hour emergency debate.

Then, relieved at the outcome, he left to read the Prime Minister a message about a vote which colleagues believe she will find acceptable.

Although the winning margin was 40 below the Government majority, it was substantial enough to bring the first snail of an amended two days to the face of Mr Jenkin.

However, he was warned by Tory MPs opposed to his decision that the curbs could cause more, and greater, trouble when Parliament resumes after the Christmas recess.

Some of those who abstained last night had been persuaded

Anger over £95,000 arms job

By NICHOLAS COMFORT
Political Staff

A POLITICAL storm broke last night over the appointment of Mr Peter Levene, chairman of a company which makes military equipment, to be Chief of Defence Procurement in the Ministry of Defence at a salary of £95,000 a year.

The salary is more than twice that of the civil servant moved to make way for him.

Labour MPs attacked Mr Levene, Defence Secretary, for appointing Mr Levene, and for permitting Sir Frank Cooper, who retired permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence in 1982, to take his place as chairman of United Scientific Holdings.

There were also rumblings on the Conservative benches over the appointment and the manner of its announcement. Some Tory backbenchers were saying it was yet another "banana skin".

Sir Humphrey Atkins, Mrs Thatcher's former Northern Ireland Secretary, issued a statement as chairman of the all-party Select Committee on Defence calling the appointment of Mr Levene into question.

Officials angry

There was scarcely concealed anger among some civil servants at what they saw as the "kicking sideways" of Mr David Perry, the present Chief of Defence Procurement, into a less responsible post to make way for Mr Levene who will have a five-year contract.

Mr Perry, 53, will be paid £45,500 as the first Chief of Defence Equipment Collaboration.

Ministers can be expected to argue that Mr Levene's appointment is an imaginative attempt to harness expertise gained during a successful career in the defence equipment industry to getting the

Continued on Back P. Col 4

BOGUS POSTMEN IN £1m GEMS ROBBERY

By Our Crime Staff

Jewellery worth up to £1 million was stolen by three armed men posing as postmen in a raid on NDC a manufacturing jewellers, in New Bond Street, yesterday.

The raiders handcuffed the firm's Israeli manager and his British secretary. The manager was then taken to open the safe and the contents were scooped into a post bag.

South African security police armed with search warrants raided the Johannesburg offices of the British television network, Independent Television News (ITN) yesterday and seized 35 video cassettes covering black unrest and protests.

Summons to F O

The Foreign Office summoned South Africa's Charges d'Affaires, Mr Leo Evans last night to explain the Johannesburg raid. An ITN spokesman said they were sending a stiff protest to the South African ambassador, and would consider showing him taken by their staff of the raid.

CIVIL SERVANTS SNUB MINERS

By Our Industrial Staff

Members of the biggest Whitehall union, the Civil and Public Services Association, have blocked a move by their Left-wing national executive to make £5,000-a-month donations to the miners' strike fund as well as a £100,000 loan.

In a ballot 12,728 members voted in favour of the executive's recommendation, but 30,252 rejected the idea. A further 2,541 abstained.

Executive loses case—P2

LAWFORD IN COMA

By Our Staff Correspondent
In Los Angeles

Peter Lawford, 61, the British-born film actor formerly married to President Kennedy's sister, Patricia, slipped into a coma and was in critical condition yesterday at Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles. He is said to be suffering from kidney failure and liver disease.

WOMAN'S 5 days in Libya jail last 14 months

By JOHN BULLOCH Diplomatic Staff

EFFORTS are to be made today to secure the release of a British woman who has spent 14 months in a Libyan jail after being sentenced to five days imprisonment.

Mrs Suweid, in her late 30s, comes from Salisbury, Wiltshire, and was arrested in October 1983, after what appeared to be a domestic row, technically on an adultery charge.

Mrs Suweid, in her late 30s, was married to a Libyan who met in Tripoli when he went back to his own country, and had two children.

Embassy told

After serving her five-day term, she found that her husband and his Libyan family refused to allow her to return to the home she had in the Libyan capital.

Reports that a British woman was in prison were first given to the British Embassy in Rome by an Italian woman who had seen her.

But it was not until Nov. 21 this year, according to the Foreign Office, that Mrs Suweid was actually identified and her whereabouts ascertained.

However, Mrs Suweid, whose maiden name was Susan Buckley, was able to let her brother know she needed help. He told



The Chinese leader Deng Hsiao-ping greeting Mrs Thatcher yesterday in the Great Hall of the People in Peking.

Ted Hughes is new Poet Laureate

By ROBIN STRINGER

TED HUGHES, 54, who has worked as a rose gardener, night watchman, film script-reader and teacher, and won acclaim for his poems about nature, is the new Poet Laureate.

His appointment announced yesterday by the Prime Minister's Office with the approval of the Queen carries an annual remuneration of £70 and a case of wine.

Though the Poet Laureate was once expected to produce poetry, said yesterday, "the Crown is the symbol of spiritual unity of the tribe. When that's outmoded, so will be the Poet Laureate."

Yorkshire-born Mr Hughes, who enjoys writing children's poetry, said yesterday, "The Crown is the symbol of spiritual unity of the tribe. When that's outmoded, so will be the Poet Laureate."

He said he had started to write a poem for Prince Harry's Christening but did not know if he would finish it.

In the bar of a public house, near his farmhouse home, he joked: "I have drunk far too much champagne to try to recite anything at the moment."

Mr Hughes added: "I feel under no real pressure to dash off something for the Christening although I would like to produce a poem. I have something on paper although some people might not think it is altogether suitable."

"Were I to finish it I would expect opinion to be divided and it to arouse some controversy."

Mr Hughes, a carpenter's son was born in Bronte country at Mytholmroed, a small mill town close to Haworth.

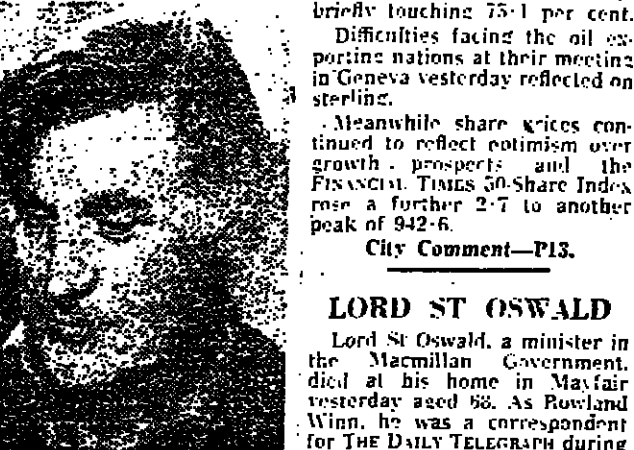
In 1948 he won an open exhibition to Pembroke College, Cambridge, but did two years National Service in the RAF before going there.

He won the Queen's Medal for Poetry in 1974 and was awarded the OBE in 1977.

He married the American poet, Sylvia Plath, in 1956 and they had a son and a daughter. Sylvia Plath committed suicide in 1965.

He married Carol Orchard in 1970 and was awarded the OBE in 1977.

Poet of harsh imagery—Back Page



Ted Hughes

STERLING KEEPS ON FALLING

By CLIFFORD GERMAN
Financial Correspondent

THE pound lost ground against all leading currencies again yesterday and, despite a modest late rally, ended at all-time closing low levels against the dollar and other leading trading currencies.

It finished at \$1.1740 in London, down 1.1 cents on the day after going as low as \$1.1715 and sterling's effective index closed 0.5 down at 73.5 per cent of the 1975 level, after briefly touching 75.1 per cent.

Difficulties facing the oil exporting nations at their meeting in Geneva yesterday reflected on sterling.

Meanwhile share prices continued to reflect optimism over growth prospects and the Financial Times 30-Share Index rose a further 2.7 to another peak of 942.6.

City Comment—P13

LORD ST OSWALD

Lord St Oswald, a minister in the Macmillan Government, died at his home in Mayfair yesterday aged 88. As Rowland Winn, he was a correspondent for The Daily Telegraph during the Spanish Civil War and was imprisoned in Barcelona under sentence of death.

Obituary—P5

LATE NEWS

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Today's Weather

GENERAL Situation: Frontal trough over S.E. England will move quickly E to leave most parts in strong W. flow. Low, S.E. England, E. Angles, East, becoming mostly dry, with some rain. Wind S.W. moderate to fresh. Max. 50F (10C).

CHESHIRE: Is. Occasional drizzle. Wind S.W. light or moderate. 50F-10C.

S. NORTH SEA: Slight or Dover. P.M. Ch. 10F. Wind S.W. force 6 or 7. Sea 8 veering N.W. 1. Sea rough becoming moderate. S.W. Ch. 10F. Wind S.W. 5 or 6. Sea rough becoming moderate.

Obvious: Mostly dry, sunny, overcast for most.

Weather Maps—P18

Thatcher and Teng toast Hongkong deal

By HUGH DAVIES in Peking

CHAIN-SMOKING and twice using his favourite white spittoon, Teng Hsiao-ping, China's octogenarian leader, genially addressed Mrs Thatcher as 'Your Excellency' as he thanked her in Peking yesterday for realising one of his life's ambitions, the reunification of capitalist Hongkong with Communist China.

They talked quietly for 80 minutes, sitting alongside each other in red armchairs in the cavernous Great Hall of the People, which, the Prime Minister remarked, could probably hold all of Downing Street.

Teng made it clear that while he may have been once denounced as a "capitalist roader," he and his leaders were still at the opposite ends of the political spectrum.

Mrs Thatcher called his conception of maintaining Hongkong as a capitalist enclave in China for 50 years as "an idea of genius."

He replied: "The credit should go to the dialectical and historical materialism of Marxism. In the words of Chairman Mao, 'Seek truth from facts.'"

Then they walked together along a red-carpeted corridor to a long chamber lit with candles for the signing of the handover document, a joint declaration that comes into effect on July 1, 1997.

DRINK DRIVERS JAILED

By JOHN SHAW

THREE motorists were sentenced to spend Christmas in prison after being convicted of drink-driving offences at Grays, Essex, yesterday.

They were among five drivers — all unemployed — jailed for drink-driving offences, part of a year-long policy aimed at reducing cases in Grays.

Nine drivers were jailed in the area last year 11 days before Christmas. All but one were detained in the police cells for between two and four days.

Mr Charles Noad, 64, chairman of the magistrates said outside court yesterday: "We are beginning to contain the problem and we have certainly reached a plateau."

Over Christmas and New Year last year there were no cases and as far as I am aware no serious accidents in the Grays area.

"We hope it will be the same this Christmas. We don't want to send people to prison, but if motorists persist in drinking we will have no alternative."

Anthony Paine, 36, from Tilbury, a first offender who was jailed for 42 days, was said by the prosecution to be drunk and a half times above the legal limit.

Paine, who had a clean driving licence for 13 years, was breath-tested after falling from his motorcycle and admitted driving with excess alcohol. He was also banned from driving for two years.

Clean record

Robert Hughes, 63, also from Tilbury, was given four days in police cells after admitting driving with excess alcohol. He was also disqualified for two years, fined £100 and ordered to pay £20 costs.

Hughes was said to be two-and-a-half times above the limit. He had had a clean driving record for 46 years.

Brian Warner, 25, from Beighton, said to be double the limit, was given four days in police cells after admitting driving with excess alcohol and Henry McGill, 34, of South Ockendon, Essex, who was said to be nearly three times over the limit.

Maurice Burke, 35, from Grays, was jailed for 28 days after failing to provide a specimen of breath for analysis. He was given an additional three months for driving while disqualified.

Champagne toast

The diminutive Teng, a head shorter than Mrs Thatcher, watched intently, his hands clasped before him, as his protégé, Premier Zhao Ziyang, sat at a green baize table to sign the momentous gold-edged parchment manuscript simultaneously with the Prime Minister.

Teng looked unaltered as Mrs Thatcher spoke of "moments of tension" in the negotiations, and he had once referred to her as an almost impossible woman to deal with.

He was all smiles as champagne was served. He immediately smiled across to her and clinked glasses with a cry of Genghis, the traditional toast of China.

Obviously elated, he took wine with Sir Geoffrey Howe, credited with making the final breakthrough in the talks, and a dozen members of the British team as Mrs Thatcher raised her glass to toast the 100 guests from Hongkong.

It had been a remarkable day of mutual congratulation and Mrs Thatcher smartly stamped on a reporter's question suggesting that she might have "given away" the colony.

"No," she replied in a calm voice. "I couldn't have given it away. It would have gone back to the Queen for two years."

Continued on Back P. Col 6

£1m FOR STARVING

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

The farmers' "Send a ton to Africa" appeal launched six months ago, yesterday reached its £1 million target. Under it grain farmers selling their crops contributed the value of a ton of grain which was then used to send grain to African famine areas.

Famine report—P4



Can you be happy this Christmas knowing he isn't?

For millions of children Christmas is something to look forward to.

For thousands, though, it can prove just the beginning of another year of deprivation.

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Unfortunately, we are unable to help them all. Not through any lack of willing. But because of lack of money.

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The Children's Society

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NUM FAILS TO STOP RULES CHANGE MOVE

By **TERENCE SHAW** Legal Correspondent

THE National Union of Mineworkers yesterday lost a High Court legal battle to stop the union's Nottinghamshire area council from voting today on proposed rule changes that will give the area union greater autonomy.

After an all-day hearing in London that continued into the evening, Mr Justice WARNER refused to grant the NUM a temporary injunction to prevent the meeting being held or to force its postponement until Friday.

At the meeting today it is expected that the rule changes already backed by 29 of the area's 31 branches, will be approved by a large majority.

The main proposal is to remove rule 39 of the area's constitution which provides that there is conflict between the national and local area rules, national area rules shall prevail.

In evidence read to the court yesterday, Mr Justice WARNER said that the NUM's general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, said the purpose of the proposed amendments was to give the Nottinghamshire area autonomy and independence from the NUM.

If that was allowed to happen, the structure of the union, as it had existed for 40 years, would be "in grave peril."

Breach of rules

The application for an injunction to stop the meeting had been brought by the NUM, two miners, Mr James Downes and Mr George Spencer, and four of the union's other areas including Durham and the cokefield group.

Their counsel, Mr Stuart SHIELDS, QC, had argued that what the NUM was doing was a breach of national union rules and their local area's contractual arrangement with the national union.

The alleged breach of contract was denied by Mr Iain JONES, QC, who was appearing for the Nottinghamshire union. He claimed that the arrangements entered into between the national union and its constituent unions in the 1940s could not be taken to have constituted a legally enforceable contract.

He also claimed that breaches of the rules by the national union in recent months during the miners' strike entitled the Nottinghamshire area to take the action it was proposing. Rejecting the NUM's application for an injunction pending a full trial, Mr Justice WARNER said it was not for him to say

whether the points taken by the defence could be established at the trial but they raised triable issues.

Earlier in the hearing, he had ruled that the NUM could argue its case, even though it was in contempt of court orders which had led to the sequestration of its assets.

Mr Jones had argued that the union should not be heard in the injunction application because its contempt was not technical or procedural, but "persistent, deliberate and flagrant."

In coming to court without purging its contempt or offering any apology, it was "picking and choosing" which part of the legal system it was going to obey and "which part it was going to use."

'IT COULD LAST YEARS'

Sombre report to TUC

Our INDUSTRIAL STAFF writes: The pit strike "could go on for years" unless there is a negotiated settlement.

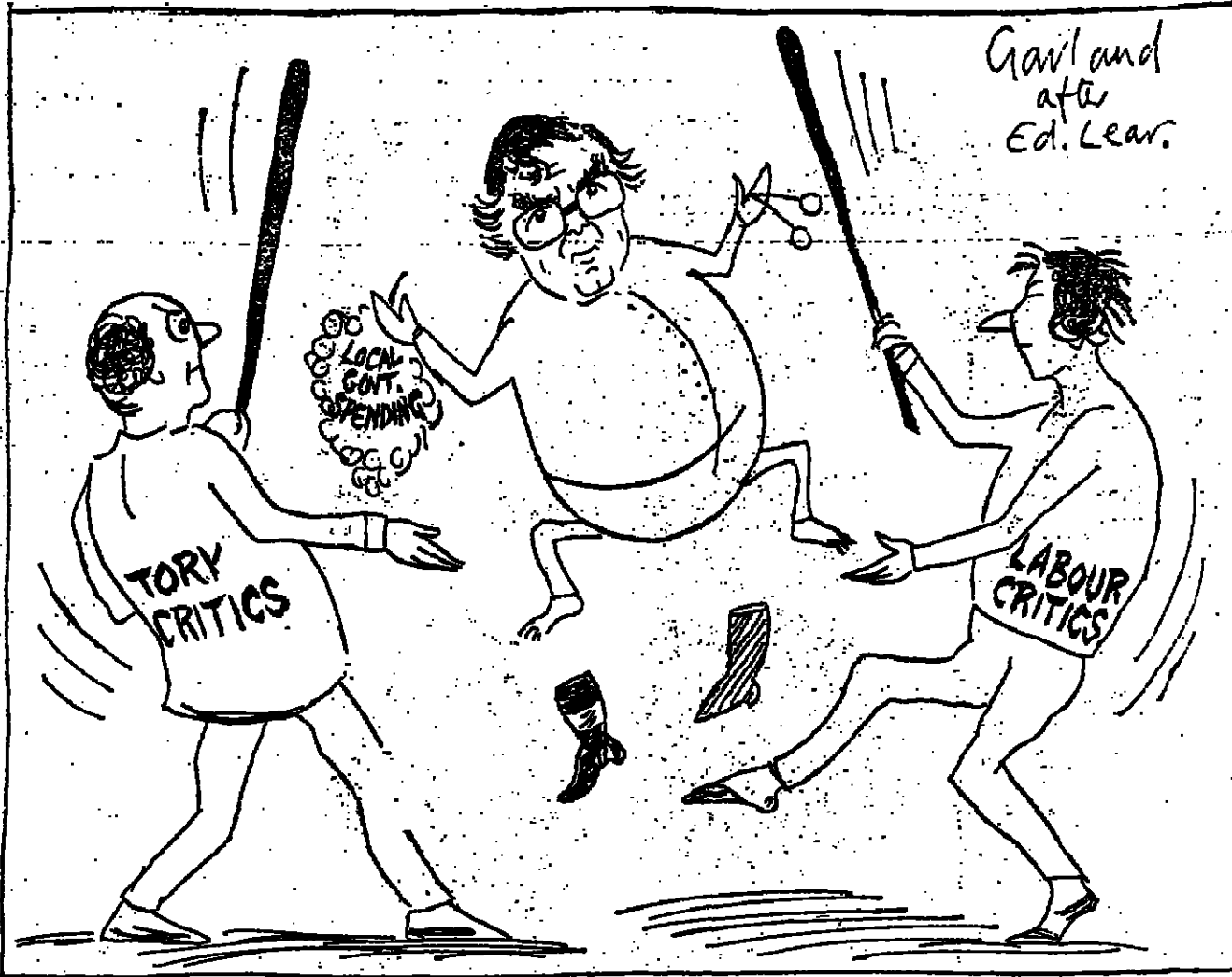
Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said yesterday.

The Government had still not realised, he said, that "tens of thousands" of NUM members, supported by their families, would never go back if the 10-month-old dispute developed into a war of attrition.

Mr Willis insisted he was not "screaming" or "screeching." It really could happen.

He was speaking after having given the TUC general council what he described as a "sombre report" on his meeting with Mr Walker, Energy Secretary, last week, when he sought new negotiations between the union and the National Coal Board.

The Nottinghamshire area executive of the NUM voted 10:1 yesterday in favour of a resolution seeking the resignation of Mr Henry Richardson, the area's general secretary, as one of the two representatives on the union's national executive.



WORKING MINER SACKED

By **JOHN WILLIAMS**

A MINER who helped lead the return to work at Markham Main colliery, near Doncaster, has been sacked by the coal board for taking home a vandalised telephone belonging to the board.

Only three months ago, Mr George Macdonald, 37, a face worker, was hailed a hero for his stand against bullying threats and attacks on his home at Wheatley Hall, Doncaster.

But it was disclosed yesterday that a letter had been sent to him by the pit management saying that he had been dismissed for stealing the telephone.

Mr Macdonald said he found it while helping to clear up vandalised pit offices.

Lost everything

He had helped to carry much of the smashed equipment to be burnt on a bonfire, but took the telephone home and spent 25 on repairs.

"I may have been stupid, but I never thought I would get the sack for this," he said yesterday.

Now Mr Macdonald, whose wife, Barbara, has threatened to walk out saying she "can't take any more," claims that he has lost everything.

"My wife says the pressure is just too much for her. This was the final straw, she said, and said she would be leaving before Christmas."

"I looked upon the coal board as my life, then this happened. I have been stupid and everything I suffered has been in vain."

"I should have asked to take the telephone, I expected a severe reprimand or fine from the board, but never the sack."

Mr Macdonald, who says he is still receiving death threats, and has had three undertakers sent to his door, is planning to consult a solicitor and to send a direct appeal to Mr Macgregor, the coal board chairman.

McGAHEY'S SON FINED £100

Michael McGahey, son of the Scottish miners' president, was yesterday fined £100 after being convicted of two picketing offences in June at a colliery in Fife.

McGahey, of Glasgow Hill Terrace, Perthshire, near Edinburgh, was fined after a Sheriff Court judge who struggled with police, forcing them on to the main road, or that he forced the lorries to stop at Carnmore open cast mine, Lochgelly. He said he was caught up in a sudden surge forward by the pickets.

POWER PRICES TO RISE IN SPRING

By **Our Business Correspondent**

BRITISH Gas yesterday confirmed a 5.1 per cent. rise in tariffs in February as the Government announced new financial targets for the electricity industry, which will mean rises of around 4.5 per cent. in power tariffs in April.

The increase in gas tariffs was coupled with a pledge that there would be no further rises next year.

British Gas said that the increase in bills would average out at 4.2 per cent. after taking into account the continued freeze in the quarterly standing charge.

The basic tariff is going up from 35.2p a therm to 37p for credit customers. For house-holds with meters the charge after the special rate for the first 39 therms will be also up by 1.8p to 39.5p.

Mr Walker, Energy Secretary, announced in a Commons written answer that the electricity industry's financial target would be raised to a 2.75 per cent. average return on net assets for a three year period. The industry is also being asked to reduce costs by 6 per cent. over the period.

Union members urged to back political funds

By **OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF**

THE TUC launched a campaign yesterday to persuade trade unionists to vote in favour of maintaining union political funds when ballots become compulsory next March.

But in an effort to isolate the issue from party politics they are playing down the importance of the funds to the future financial well-being of the Labour party.

Instead the campaign will emphasise the use of such designated political resources by unions to "pursue their own sectoral campaigns. The catchphrase will be "Say Yes to a Voice."

Total income

Without such funds the Civil Service unions would not be able to carry on their fight to re-establish their rights at GCHQ, it is claimed. And the local government union Nalgo would not have been able to campaign against council spending cuts.

Mr Bill Keys, general secretary of Sogat 82, the print union, who is heading the TUC campaign, said: "This must be seen as a non-party political matter. It is nothing to do with

paying political levies to the Labour party. Our theme is that as trade unions we wish to maintain the right to express our views in Parliament and elsewhere and maintenance of these funds are essential to that purpose."

Last available figures (for 1980) show that the total income of trade union political funds was £7,100,000. Of this about £3 million went to the Labour party, accounting for about 80 per cent. of the party's total income.

The future of such funds will be decided by ballots which become compulsory in March 1983, under the provisions of the 1984 Trade Union Act.

Unions must ballot their members in the 12 months to March 1986 and at least once every 10 years afterwards.

Government funds are available to pay for these ballots but most TUC unions remain loyal to conference policy of not accepting the money. The TUC's Employment Policy and Organisation Committee is to reassess this policy in January.

Ruling on killer 'outrageous'

By **IAN BALL** in New York

A SENIOR United States Justice Department official yesterday denounced the refusal last week by a federal judge in New York to extradite an IRA fugitive convicted of murdering a British Army captain in 1980.

Mr Stephen Troit, head of the Justice Department's Criminal Division said that the Anglo-American and other extradition treaties should be changed to preclude such rulings. It was clear that he was expressing the current thinking of the Reagan Administration.

"I think it's outrageous that terrorists can run across a border and repeal the whole penal code of a country—and we're part of the problem," said Mr Troit.

The IRA fugitive involved, Joseph Patrick Doherty, was convicted in absentia by a Belfast court in June 1981 of the murder of Capt. Herbert Richard Vestmact of the SAS. Doherty had escaped two days earlier from a Belfast prison and, with help from an IRA network, made his way to the United States on bogus documents.

Since his arrest in New York in June last year Britain has been seeking Doherty's extradition to serve a life sentence. But in the federal district court in Manhattan last week, Judge John Sirizuela ruled that Doherty could not be handed over to Britain because his offence was "political."

RIVER SEARCHED

Hunt for Maze escapee

Police from the Bannagh river, on the Co. Fermanagh border, yesterday for the body of Ki-ran Gerard Fleming, a member of the Provisional IRA on the run from

A Danish coaster carrying 200 tons of Christmas toys and clothes for striking miners' children was unloaded at Hull yesterday. The cargo was assembled by families of Danish seamen.

JENKIN CUTS CURB CONTRACTS

By **JOHN GRIGSBY** Local Government Correspondent

NO new contracts for building council houses or demolishing slums will be let next year as a result of the announcement on Tuesday by Mr Jenkin, Environment Secretary, of further controls on capital spending, councils and builders said yesterday.

Conservative and Labour-controlled councils joined the construction industry in condemning the move.

Bowing to Treasury pressure, Mr Jenkin effectively cut £1,000 million from the spending potential of local councils by cutting the proportion of their capital receipts which they can now spend.

Councils will only be able to spend 20 per cent. of the money they receive from the sale of houses, mostly council houses, next year, compared with 40 per cent. now. They will be able to spend only 30 per cent. of the money they get from the sale of other assets, instead of 50 per cent. now.

Flexibility lost

The camp will reduce the potential available for the councils to top up their Government-limited allocations from accumulated receipts for capital projects, including council house building, slum clearance, the erection of schools, offices and advance factories, from £5,000 million to £4,000 million.

It will rob the councils of much of the flexibility they now legally have to breach the cash limits imposed by the Government.

This year, councils, housing associations and new towns are expected to start work on just under 30,000 new homes, many of them for the old and disabled.

Speculative house builders expect to start work on about 155,000. But the total figure is still short of the total of 200,000 new homes a year which past studies have predicted is required to meet the growth in population and the increase in small families.

United front

The Conservative-controlled Association of District Councils, the Labour Association of Metropolitan Authorities and the Building Employers' Confederation are united in fighting the Government on the issue.

The confederation estimated yesterday that the £1,000 million could have financed 480,000 improvement grants or 75,000 new public sector homes. Either option would create 225,000 new jobs in the building industry.

The Government is working on the following figures: Councils would be likely to spend, with the aid of accumulated capital receipts, £5,000 million next year, without the new restrictions. They are now likely to spend just over £4,000 million in line with the target figures.

Of the total, capital spending on housing is expected to total £3,500 million next year. Local councils will get £2,324 million, housing associations £885 million, new towns £43 million and home loans will account for £3 million.

But the local authorities complain that the make-up of the figures means that they will be forced to use accumulated capital receipts to fund their building programme—and many do not have the money available.

The Government accepts that the capital receipts from the sale of council houses and other property belong to the local councils. Since 1919, when Lloyd George launched the housing programme of "Homes Fit for Heroes," the councils have financed their capital spending by borrowing.

COUNCIL JOBS GO

A Tory council is set to cut maintenance jobs, Rochester City Council, Kent, say redundancies are necessary here as a fall in work on council houses.

RAF jet trainer replacements still fail specifications

By **Maj-Gen. Edward Fursdon** Defence Correspondent

NONE of the four contending aircraft to replace the Jet Provost as the R A F's new jet trainer actually meet the R A F's specification in every detail, a Defence Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

But the two still in the competition — the Swiss Pilatus PC-9, to be built by British Aerospace, and the Brazilian Embraer Tucano, which Short's of Belfast would manufacture—would require only minimal changes to meet them.

The contract at stake is worth £200 million.

Mr Adam Butler, Defence Procurement Minister, told the Commons on Tuesday that the British contender, the Hunting Firecracker, and the Australian A-20 Wamira, with which Westlands were associated, had both been rejected as a result of technical and financial evaluation.

But he emphasised that the option of refurbishing the R A F's existing Jet Provost fleet was still a viable one which had its attractions to meet the R A F's requirements — not least that of cost.

Spring decision

But Hunting, who make the Firecracker, said yesterday very emphatically that "this is certainly not the end of the road as far as we are concerned. We are absolutely mystified as to why we have been written off."

Tenders for the four aircraft were received on October 1 this year, and as a result of evaluation the Central Defence Committee made its recommendations to the Minister in early December.

On Tuesday Mr Butler announced that, in order to clarify and amplify certain aspects of their tenders, he was now asking British Aerospace and Shorts to submit their final best tenders for their two aircraft.

The decision as to which R A F will eventually fulfil its requirement of 230 aircraft (plus an option on 15 more) and to come into service by 1989, is now not expected until early Spring.

The prime consideration reflected in the Minister's decision, the spokesman said, is to obtain a cost-effective aircraft which meets the R A F's needs. The broader economic, employment and sales potential aspects of the four aircraft were also key criteria which had been carefully examined.

In fact all the four contending aircraft incorporated a number of British components.

The Firecracker and Wamira tenders had been considerably more expensive however, he continued, an dthe R A F view was that both the PC-9 and the Tucano were better able to perform the training task currently undertaken by the Jet Provost.

It had to be accepted, however, that a turbo-prop solution meant that additional post-training pilot hours had to be flown on a Hawk trainer. But overall, a turbo-prop Hawk jet package would be cheaper than an all-jet one.

Having chosen Firecracker would certainly have meant more jobs in Britain, but this was only one of the factors in the rejection decision.

The Ministry also believe that "very satisfactory arrangements could be arrived at" with the foreign companies sponsoring the two remaining competing aircraft as regards export sales which could reach 500-600 aircraft.

Both Hunting and Westlands will be told why their tenders were not successful, the spokesman said, and the Government of Australia, Switzerland and Brazil had already been informed of the situation.

The two unsuccessful companies would not be invited to tender but "anything they wish to submit will be treated on its merits."

Goalposts moved

Mr Colin Wagstaff, Hunting spokesman, said that the R A F had been very clear on its requirements, but they had been subsequently changed "like moving the goalposts during the game."

He also wanted to know how Firecracker had been ruled out on cost. "There are no second prizes in this competition, and we are still aiming for first prize."

Firecracker was the result of a private money investment project, not in any way subsidised by the Government.

"Our aircraft met the specification, was cost-effective, created jobs and had great export prospects. It was not a 'paper aircraft', but one already flying now — operating at twice the rate demanded by the R A F and successfully training foreign military pilots here in Britain."

"Yesterday's decision puts the defence procurement policy of buying British: if the product is right in quality and price, in preference to what export firms in Switzerland and Brazil!" said Mr Wagstaff.

Gap closing

However, although the Russians appear to be closing the technological gap, the Americans are moving forward into the evocative field of information-integrating microprocessors. Hands on knees, the pilot will be able to command his aircraft to take action in attack, avoidance, and weapon management, simply by telling the computers what he wants done.

"Whoever edits Jane's between the years 2025 and 2050 may have to learn wholly new technologies associated with boost glide vehicles," says Mr Taylor.

"These are foreseen as aircraft that would enter Earth orbit, dive on their targets at above 17,000 mph, and then return to the ground. Work on such vehicles could begin three years from now."

Included in this 948-page edition is a condensed version of Mr Taylor's lecture presented before the Royal Astronomical Society, Belfast Branch, as the 1981 Short Brothers' Commemorative Lecture. The article covers the history of Jane's All The World's Aircraft since the first edition in 1909.

CRUISE DOUBTS

'Soviet silos, too hard'

Soviet missile silos are now so tough they can withstand the force of ballistic missiles targeted on them, JANE's says. Mr Taylor writes:

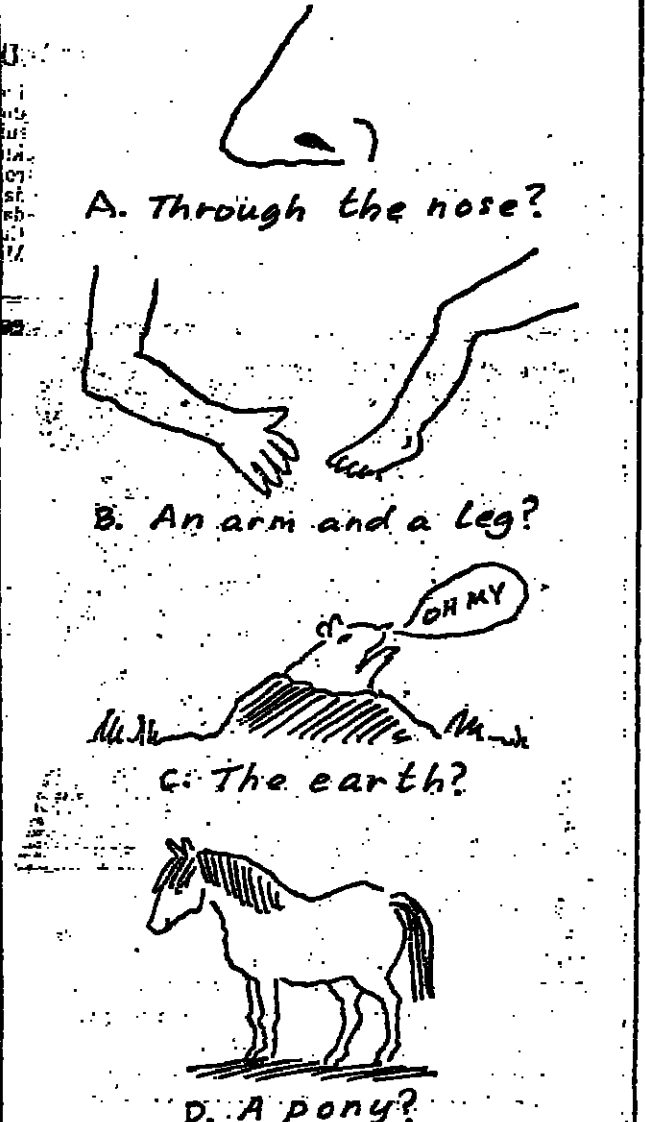
"If the launch of over 1,000 of the mightiest intercontinental ballistic missiles could not ensure military success, while the firing of even one submarine launched or cruise missile could provoke overwhelming response against civilian targets, it is clear that a nation like the U K has nothing to boast by possessing such weapons or by having them based on its soil."

Jane's All The World's Aircraft, C.V. Road, London EC1V 2PU, £60.

SHORTER WEEK

More than 200 production workers at the H P Baker Bros factory at North Walsham, Norfolk, are to be put on a three-day week in January, because of high stock levels.

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO PAY FOR A VERY OLD BRANDY?



A. Through the nose?

B. An arm and a leg?

C. The earth?

D. A pony?

ANSWER:

For DAME'S Tradition, Ground to Micker.

JANNEAU

Very old Armagnac Brandy

1.50

'She never took drugs' says Lord Gormanston

HEROIN DEATH MYSTERY OF PEER'S WIFE

By A. J. MALKROY

A MIXTURE of heroin and cocaine killed Viscountess Gormanston, 29, wife of Ireland's premier viscount, a pathologist told a Westminster inquest yesterday. But how, when and where she took the drugs remains a mystery.

She was found dead by a police patrol in the back of a car in a Belgrave mews after she and her husband had been celebrating his 45th birthday by going to two late-night parties.

My wife never took drugs," Lord GORMANSTON, said in evidence.

But the pathologist, Dr IAN WEST, said her body contained 0.64 milligrammes of morphine per litre of blood, as well as cocaine. Morphine is produced when heroin is broken down in the body.

Lord Gormanston, a Conservative peer, sat impassively, arms folded, as the coroner, Dr PAUL KNAPMAN, recorded a verdict that Lady Gormanston, a well-known and a mother of two, died from non-dependent abuse of drugs.

The coroner described the case as "a melancholy illustration of what could happen following an evening at a party, and said: "The Lord Chief Justice himself has recently drawn attention to the dangers concerned and what heroin and morphine can do."

He said that after listening to all the evidence "one thing is conspicuous in its absence, and that is how she came by the heroin and cocaine."

At the end of the 95-minute inquest Lord Gormanston, was driven away by Mr Alexander Butler, 27, the company director who had hosted the first party on the night of the death, Nov. 17.

Vodka for him, whisky for her

Lord Gormanston said in evidence that he and his wife, Eva, left their home in Dalmeu House, Thurlow Place, South Kensington at 10 p.m. for Mr Butler's party in Notting Hill. He drank vodka at the party, and thought his wife had whisky.

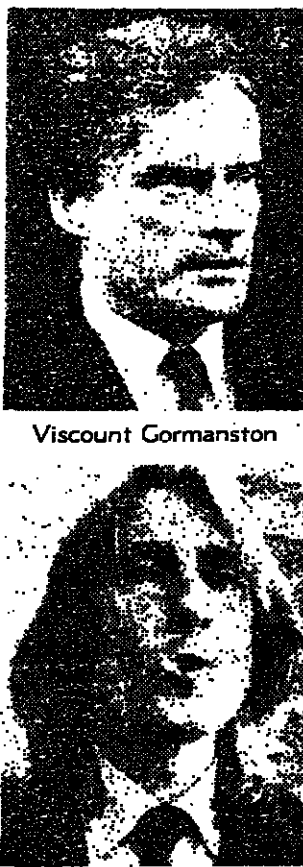
Asked if anyone had taken drugs at that party, he replied: "No."

As they left, his wife, he remarked that she had been sick twice, but she seemed perfectly in control of herself.

The coroner asked him if there might be any heroin or cocaine at his home. "I should think it very unlikely," said Lord Gormanston. He had never known his wife take heroin



Lady Eva—traces of drugs in the body.



Mr Brian Walsh

Lord Gormanston had satisfied officers by producing his security pass for the House of Lords.

Pc DOUGLAS TULLOCK said that he had followed the car because it was being driven very fast and the driver appeared to be lost. When the car was parked in the mews he looked inside and saw Lady Gormanston lying across the back seat.

"I noticed she looked very ill and asked Mr Walsh and Viscount Gormanston, if they had called an ambulance," he said.

Lord Gormanston said: "It's all right, she has been like this before. She just needs to be warmed. We brought her here to Gwendoline's because women know about these things."

Pc TULLOCK said that when he suggested it looked as though Lady Gormanston had taken a drug overdose Mr Walsh replied: "That's enough officer. There is no need for that. What's your number?"

Pc TULLOCK said that Lord Gormanston then said that his wife had taken some asthma tablets, and had also had a drink.

Drugs for asthma found in handbag

Dr WEST, head of forensic medicine at Guy's Hospital, said that a phial of tablets which police found in Lady Gormanston's handbag were steroid drugs used in the treatment of asthma.

"They would not produce the symptoms she suffered from," he said.

He said she had taken heroin "by snorting a very, very substantial dose." The "snorting" derives from taking the drugs in short sniffling motions through the nose.

The coroner asked him if he could pinpoint the time Lady Gormanston took the drugs.

Dr WEST said he could not be precise, but he believed the drugs were taken later rather than earlier during the night.

She had been drinking "but not in sufficient quantity to make her drunk. There was vomit in her air passages."

Mr WALSH said that at his flat after the Butler party Lady Gormanston went to a downstairs bedroom to sleep and "I think I heard her being sick."

She had taken "allevy pills," he said, because of her allergy to cats. There had been cats at the Butler party.

The coroner also recorded verdicts of drug abuse in two other inquests. In the first, held immediately before the Gormanston inquest he heard that Simon Scudamore, 28, an actor, had died of a heroin overdose.

The body of Mr Graham, of Duncan Terrace, Islington, was dragged from the Seine in Paris on Dec. 21, 1983, following his disappearance from a Paris hotel.

A year later and after 18 adjournments, the inquest is still to be held in full because French police have not supplied Britain with an incident report.

The day after Mr Graham's body was found, that of Neil Campbell from Hampstead, was found in a ditch near a financial adviser for I.C.I. was recovered in Brest harbour, Brittany, yards from a French nuclear submarine base after he too disappeared in Paris.

British police are still uncertain whether there is a link between the deaths and will be unable to establish this until the French co-operate.

The inquest on Mr Graham was adjourned until Jan. 9.

TODDLER DRIVEN AWAY BY THIEF

A car thief yesterday drove away with the car owner's two-year-old daughter still on the back seat. Simone Redway had been playing happily in her father's Lanchester Cavalier while he bought a newspaper in Grange Road, Erdington, Birmingham.

The car was found abandoned in Gravelly Hill North, about three miles away, with Simone unharmed inside.

ILEA advertisements illegal, judge rules

By MARGOT NORMAN Education Staff

The Inner London Education Authority's £750,000 publicity campaign against rate-capping is illegal, Mr Justice GLIDWELL ruled in the High Court yesterday.

Some observers thought last night that the decision led inescapably to the conclusion that the GLC's £10,200,000 publicity campaign against the Government plan to abolish it is also unlawful.

The action brought by Conservative-controlled Westminster City Council against ILEA was the first direct challenge to the legality of the GLC's advertising campaign.

The judge said ILEA had wrongly sought to persuade the public to the authority's own viewpoint. This was an irrelevant consideration, outside the powers granted the authority under the 1972 Local Government Act.

Designed to persuade

Informing the public would have been legal under the Act, but the judge said some of the ILEA campaigns' advertising slogans contained little or no information and were "designed only to persuade."

This is true, in particular in my view, of the poster slogan "Education Cuts Never Heal," which I think it is fair to say, "It is also true of the advertisement 'What do you get if you subtract 25 million from London's education budget?'"

Mr Patrick Kirwan, Westminster's representative on the ILEA finance committee said she was "absolutely delighted"

by the ruling and said the GLC could well find its campaign—including the advertisements already run and paid for—was illegal.

Last night ILEA had not yet decided whether to appeal, a decision may be taken at an emergency finance committee meeting tomorrow.

Abbott, Mead, Vickers, ILEA's advertising agency would make no comment, but it appears that the ruling would enable any ratepayer to complain to the District Auditor that his rates had been used improperly to pay the company. Further legal action seems likely.

An ILEA spokesman said: "The Government is free to pressurise about the enormous benefits to the community of its policies, but we're not free to inform people in the way we planned our view of the harm that Government policies will do to the education service in London."

Talks with GLC

The District Auditor is already in discussion with the GLC over those parts of its campaign. But a GLC spokesman was confident that, even if parts of its campaign were illegal, it would be possible to spend some of the £10,200,000.

In a separate action, Mr Justice GLIDWELL declared that the decision of the GLC in July to second full-time, paid staff to the Democracy for London campaign was invalid.

Hospital baby died after feed overdose

An eight-day-old baby died in a hospital's special care baby unit after being given an overdose of fluids, an inquest at Bristol heard yesterday.

JOHNATHAN CASEY, nine weeks premature and suffering from a rare muscle wasting disease, died after liquid food from an intravenous drip was pumped into him at more than 10 times the prescribed rate.

The drip was set to deliver the fluid at a rate of 10ml an hour, said Dr Brian Speidel, consultant paediatrician at Bristol's Southmead Hospital. But, half an hour after nurses checked the rate of flow, the machine's alarm sounded and it was discovered that 54ml had been pumped into the baby's bloodstream.

The baby's heart failed for a time, then his breathing, and despite the efforts of doctors and nurses, he died 20 hours later in his mother's arms.

In a statement read to the inquest, Mrs Theresa Casey, of Hendle Way, Hanham, Bristol, said she felt her son's death "might have been averted or his life prolonged if his progress and medication had been properly monitored."

Few survived

Dr SUMARI, said Johnathan was suffering from myotonic dystrophy and half of such babies died within two weeks of birth, those that survived were incapable of an independent existence.

Dr PETER BERRY, a paediatric pathologist said Johnathan died from respiratory failure due to myotonic dystrophy. Contributory factors were premature birth and the administration of an excess of intravenous fluid.

The coroner, DONALD HAWKINS, recorded a verdict of misadventure.

SNOWDON DEATH

The body of a girl student killed in a 1,000ft fall from Snowdon was recovered by helicopter yesterday. Susan Whittle, 21, of Edgewater, Middleton, Co. Cork, Ireland, had been walking with three friends on Snowdon's Path when she slipped and fell.

Brittan to get report on Evans

By ALAN COPPS

THE Home Office is to review arrangements for checking the background of both volunteers and paid social workers who come into contact with young children following the case of Colin Evans.

Mr Brittan, Home Secretary, announced yesterday that he had asked for a report from Berkshire probation committee into the case of Evans, the killer of four-year-old Marie Payne, who was introduced as a social work volunteer by Mr Peter Southerton, a probation officer, and went on to molest children while baby-sitting.

"I view the sadistic or sexual murder of children as among the very worst categories of murder rightly resulting in the longest term of imprisonment," said Mr Brittan.

"I should make it clear now that it is the duty of probation officers dealing with child sex offenders to take every step to prevent contact with children."

"I am, however, taking steps to ensure that this clear duty is kept out even more firmly to avoid any possible repetition of this lamentable episode."

The disclosure of Evans' activities before he murdered Marie Payne brought demands from MPs of all parties for better vetting of social-work volunteers, and from several Tory MPs for the dismissal of Mr Southerton.

The existing Home Office circular about access to criminal records is regarded as vague, and Berkshire Social Services department has called for the authorities to be given a statutory right to check the past of volunteers.

Avoid temptation

One idea to be put forward to Mr Brittan is that all offenders finding work, should be obliged to disclose all previous convictions to prospective employers.

The suggestion comes from the Apex Charitable Trust, which specialises in finding jobs for ex-offenders.

In the past year the trust has found jobs for 900 ex-offenders and says that only one per cent have subsequently offended against their employers.

Meanwhile, it was confirmed that Evans had written from his cell in Wormwood Scrubs to the family of three girls whom he sexually abused and offered them his household goods.

The father of the family said he had accepted Evans' colour television. "As we live on the breadline there was no hope of getting a colour TV."

"It is really since that period that he has quite clearly been unable at times to control what he himself says is disgusting conduct."

In his letter to the family, written before his 30-year sentence, Evans said he expected to spend so long in jail that he would have to further use for the set. He also expressed sorrow at his crimes.

WATER THROWN OVER POLICE WATCHING BANK

A British Telecom engineer kept three men he suspected of being would-be bank robbers under observation for a few hours, then went home, got a bucket of water, and threw it over them. But Victor McCann, found himself in trouble because the men were detectives keeping observation on the bank.

McCann, 46, of Hackney Road, was arrested and at Thames court yesterday was found guilty of assaulting the officers and given a one-month prison sentence suspended for a year.

Mr Peter Badger, magistrate, told McCann: "Four weeks afterwards there was a robbery at the bank, and what you did, whatever your reason for it, was the gravest danger to the public."

MOTHER'S LOVE TIPS SCALES IN CUSTODY CASE

In custody cases where mother and father are equal in the eyes of the law, the mother is more likely to win custody, Lord Justice Purchas said in the Appeal Court yesterday.

Telling that a divorced mother should have custody of her five-year-old son, he made it clear that a mother's love can tip the scales. "Where other things are equal, with a child aged five, in times of illness, stress and anxiety, where comfort is needed, the mother is usually the appropriate custodial person."

He and Lord Justice Oliver dismissed the father's appeal against the earlier ruling that the mother should have custody of the boy.

BOMB ATTACK TORY GOES HOME

Mr Donald Maclean, Scottish Conservative party president, who was injured in the Brighton bomb attack, was released from hospital yesterday.

Muriel Maclean, whose wife died as a result of the blast, had been receiving treatment for ankle injuries in Glasgow's western infirmary.

POP SINGER BETTER

A further improvement in the condition of Mike Nolan, the badly-injured Bucks Fizz star was reported yesterday. He has been transferred from Newcastle General Hospital's intensive care unit to a ward.

A father's photo ends hotel evil of child-sex pervert

A CHILD molester who admitted pursuing victims three or four times a week for three years was jailed by an Old Bailey judge yesterday with the warning: "You represent an evil which must be cut out of society."

Mr Justice KENNETH PHILLIPS, who jailed Marie Payne's killer, Colin Evans, for 30 years on Monday, told STEPHEN PHILLIPS:

"It is a blessing to this great city that you can now be removed from it."

The deliberation you brought to the commission of these offences is appalling," Phillips, 25, got seven years.

A former hotel porter and chef, he used to prowl the streets near hotels in the West End and Kensington seeking his prey.

Suspicious doctor

Many of his victims were the children of tourists. He would ask them to help him carry parcels or cases into an hotel, then assault them on landings or fire escapes.

Yet he was only caught in September when he chatted to the two young daughters of a German doctor in Hyde Park.

The father, suspicious, secretly photographed him and sent the pictures to Scotland Yard.

A policeman recognised Phillips, a one-time male prostitute, of West End Lane, Kilburn, who had convictions for sex offences. He was arrested, and confessed.

Yesterday he admitted assaults on ten children aged from 7 to 12.

Mr Geoffrey Minter, prosecuting, said Phillips told detectives: "My mind just goes blank, and I am just disgusted when I realise what I have done."

"I get these sexual urges, and I can't control myself."

Mr PHILLIPS, defending, said Phillips felt "disgust, contempt and sorrow."

After becoming a male prostitute, he had taken part in "some form of orgy with young children" in Cambridge for money.

"It is really since that period that he has quite clearly been unable at times to control what he himself says is disgusting conduct."

ANTI-RAPE GAS 'COST WOMAN HER LIFE'

An "anti-rape" tear gas spray cost a woman her life when she angrily used it on her former boyfriend, said Mr Jonathan Goldberg, defending, at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Barbara Duernick, 28, sprayed Dominic Valentine, 33, in the face after he scaled a drainpipe to get into her bedroom in Mallison Road, Kensington.

Valentine, of Stanwick Road, Kensington, lost his temper when she used the gas, and was blinded, and picked up a knife, and lashed out, stabbing her in the stomach. He was cleared of murder but jailed for three years for manslaughter.

DALGLISH ROBBED

Kenny DalGLISH, the Liverpool and Scotland footballer, has been robbed of souvenirs from his club's record-breaking 1983-84 season. Raiders broke into his home in Birkdale, Southport, and took medals, including his European Cup, League Championship and Milk Cup winners' mementos.

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2. Join 'Hungry For Change'. Clearly, we can't go on like this. In the long term we need change. Ethiopia needs it. Sudan, Chad, Brazil... we all need a change in the system that allows 500 million people to go hungry every day.

In October we launched a campaign to make that change. We called it 'Hungry For Change'. Please fill in the coupon below and join us today.

Yes, we need your money, but more than that - we need you!

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ POSTCODE _____ Please return this coupon to Guy Stringer, Oxfam, Room DT10, Freepost, Oxford OX2 7BR.

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OVER 2,000 STORES & DEALERSHIPS WORLDWIDE

Allies could have a share in project, says Weinberger

E SPACE DEFENCE P 'COULD PROTECT U WEST EUROPE'

By DAVID SHEARS in Washington

MR. CASPAR WEINBERGER, America's Defence Secretary claimed yesterday that the proposed American system of space defences against incoming missiles would be just as effective in protecting Western Europe as in shielding North America from attack.

The system might "secure earlier success against medium-range missiles," such as the Soviet SS-20s now targeted on Europe, he told foreign correspondents.

Mr Weinberger delivered a ringing endorsement of the so-called Strategic Defence Initiative and denied that either Mrs Thatcher or Chancellor Kohl of West Germany opposed it.

He conceded that President Mitterrand of France had made "some statements that sound relatively negative."

Despite his enthusiasm for the SDI project, Mr Weinberger nevertheless declared that he would not exclude bargaining with Russia on the subject. On his London visit Mr Gorbachev, has called for a halt to the arms race in space and American testing of anti-satellite and anti-missile weapons.

Research stage

"If you could destroy SS-20s by non-nuclear means you would have a much better and more hopeful world," Mr Weinberger declared.

He emphasised that the scheme was still in the research stage and there was as yet no certainty that it would prove feasible, although he had every confidence that this would be the case.

European allies could be given a share in the project, he said.

We need all the help we can get on this. This is a massive task and there are a great many European, Japanese and other technologies that we use every day and I have very high hopes that there will be a strong worldwide movement to work together on this technology and development programme."

Mr Weinberger said it was quite wrong for critics to argue that pursuit of the SDI would tend to "decouple" America from Europe.

Geneva meeting

He disputed the charge that the American project violated the 1972 American-Russian anti-ballistic missile treaty. He counter-argued that a new Russian radar system was "almost certainly in violation" of the treaty.

In an apparent indirect swipe at Mr Gorbachev's call for a moratorium on American space-weapon testing, he said that the process of reducing nuclear arms would not be aided by "a partisan or uninformed rhetoric aimed at forcing unilateral restraint upon the United States."

Earlier yesterday the White House responded to Russian demands for American moves to check the arms race by promising that the United States would be flexible in next month's Geneva superpower meeting.

Evidently anxious to blunt the impact of Mr Gorbachev's conciliatory statements in London, Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said America was "encouraged" that the Soviets are willing to enter a dialogue.

Mr Gorbachev's remarks on the need to head off an arms race in space and reduce nuclear weapons have attracted wide attention in the American Press.

Mr Speakes, replied to Mr Gorbachev by reading a prepared statement that avoided specifics.

Washington expected the Jan. 7-8 meeting between Mr Shultz, the secretary of State, and Mr Gromyko, his Russian counterpart, to involve "intense discussions."

But yesterday newspaper executives voiced concern over the Pentagon's "gag," saying that it came at a time of legitimate concern over the so-called "militarisation" of space. Some decided to publish on the grounds that data was available in technical journals and at Congressional hearings.

Newspapers and television networks gave details of the satellite after the Washington Post broke the story.

Extraordinary steps

In addition, it seems unlikely that the Russians would have been able to deduce what the Discovery's payload would be. The Air Force said earlier this year that this flight would include a special engine required for placing satellites in geosynchronous orbit, meaning that they remain above one spot on the earth.

Only three types of American satellite — early warning, communications and "signal" — are placed in such orbits.

Officials had said previously that a new early warning satellite would not be launched for some years and a communica-

'Star Wars' ridicule for Reagan

By ADRIAN BERRY Science Correspondent

DEFENDERS of President

Reagan's plan to put defensive weapons in space are becoming increasingly dismayed by what they regard as the pejorative description "Star Wars."

They believe that the phrase "Star Wars" was deliberately coined to throw ridicule on the project by suggesting that Mr Reagan was proposing to do things that are wildly extravagant, physically impossible, or both.

The reason for this suspicion lies in the actual contents of the popular 1977 science fiction film "Star Wars," which depicted a rebellion against a galactic empire headed by the evil magician Darth Vader.

Vader, in order to terrorise his enemies, used a single beam, fired from space, to cause an earth-sized planet to explode into fragments.

Physically impossible

Every scientist who has seen the film and whom I have interviewed agreed that this feat was physically impossible, since no conceivable sort of beam could have such a destructive effect.

The film also showed space warships, filled with soldiers, blazing away at each other with similarly destructive beams and ruzzing about the galaxy much faster than the speed of light, in violation of Einstein's theory of relativity.

"I believe the title 'Star Wars' was applied to the President's plan to give the false impression that he thought the United States could do these crazy things," a supporter of the plan said yesterday.

"In reality, all that is proposed is that unmanned satellites in earth orbit may be able to disable some 80 per cent. of Soviet missiles before they could reach their targets which would deter the Russians from attacking."

"Judging from the present rate of technical progress, the United States could achieve this defence, perhaps soon after the turn of the century, without any recourse to the mythical powers of Darth Vader."

Shuttle mission leak upset for Weinberger

By FRANK TAYLOR in Washington

AN attempt by the Pentagon to keep secret the objective of next month's mission of the space shuttle Discovery was thwarted yesterday when the WASHINGTON POST and other newspapers, news agencies and television networks gave details of the military payload that is to be carried into orbit.

Discovery's main task will be to place a military spy satellite over the Soviet Union.

Mr. Casper Weinberger, Defence Secretary, said yesterday that the Washington Post's decision to publish the report of the satellite was "the height of journalistic irresponsibility."

While he refused to comment on the nature of the shuttle's payload would be subject to investigation.

Mr Weinberger added that he thought the Post had "violated national security."

The satellite, one of the "Signal" (for signals intelligence) series, will be used to monitor Russian missile tests and radio, telephone and satellite transmissions.

The disclosure amounts to a partial breach of a long-standing policy in the history of America's manned space flight programme. Discovery's flight is due to begin on Jan. 23.

At a news conference on Monday, Brig Gen. Richard Abel, the U.S. Air Force's spokesman, said "speculation" about the mission, citing the need to keep it secret from the Russians. "The more information they have, the easier it is for them to counter the capability of those payloads," he said.

Three news organisations that had acquired details of the mission were asked not to publish.

But yesterday newspaper executives voiced concern over the Pentagon's "gag," saying that it came at a time of legitimate concern over the so-called "militarisation" of space. Some decided to publish on the grounds that data was available in technical journals and at Congressional hearings.

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Extraordinary steps

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Officials had said previously that a new early warning satellite would not be launched for some years and a communica-



The Kremlin's No. 2 meets Labour's No. 1 — Mr Gorbachev with Mr Kinnock outside the Commons yesterday.

Gorbachev opens door to arms control talks

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

IN separate talks yesterday with the Labour and Alliance leaders, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev made it clear that the Soviet Union has no preconditions that could prevent the opening of arms control talks with the United States early next year.

His remarks had the effect of crossing from the list of possible major obstacles the planned American anti-satellite weapons tests in March and the development of space weaponry.

The crucial issue for the Russians so far as the mechanism of the negotiations is concerned is the relationship between space defence and strategic and medium-range nuclear missiles. They link progress towards a treaty banning the new defensive space weapons planned by the Americans to reductions in offensive missiles.

Mr Kinnock, Labour leader, said that in response to a specific question about preconditions, Mr Gorbachev replied: "We do not include the question of the demilitarisation of outer space as a preliminary condition, and we have no preliminary conditions whatsoever."

"We wish only to stress that at the present stage, the problem of the demilitarisation of space has acquired a special significance. In summing up what I have said, we approach these new negotiations from the premise that all issues should be considered as closely related."

Mr Gorbachev spent yesterday evening with his wife Raisa as guests of Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, at the English National Opera production of Cost Fan Tutte. Afterwards they had supper at Lancaster House.

WREATH FOR MARX

Visit to cemetery

Members of the Soviet delegation visiting Britain yesterday laid a wreath at Karl Marx's tomb, but Mr Gorbachev, was not among them.

He had been expected to arrive at Highgate Cemetery to lay the wreath, but instead Mr Leonid Zamiatin, chief spokesman of the Soviet Central Committee, was the main dignitary.

He explained afterwards: "Mr Gorbachev was not here as it was not in his schedule to do so. It was only the delegation which was supposed to be represented."

'Sustained prosperity' claim by White House

By DAVID SHEARS in Washington

FALLING interest rates and a new "flash" estimate of economic growth yesterday prompted the White House to claim that the American business slowdown was only a passing phase and that the nation was headed for "sustained prosperity."

Wall Street investors seemed to agree. On Tuesday the stock market emerged from the doldrums to stage its biggest rally in more than four months — nearly 35 points on the Dow Jones industrial index — and continued to climb in early trading yesterday.

Deep-seated problems remain, notably the yawning Federal budget deficit and the American trading shortfall that stems largely from the soaring dollar. But even if there is no certainty of a prosperous New Year, it looks like being a merry Christmas for President Reagan's economic strategists.

The preliminary so-called "flash" estimate yesterday of the nation's economic growth rate for the fourth quarter was put by the Commerce Department at 2.8 per cent.

This was somewhat better than forecast but still far below the rip-roaring rates of over 10 per cent. and seven per cent. recorded in the first two quarters.

At the same time the Commerce Department corrected its earlier figure of inflation-adjusted growth in the third quarter from 1.9 to 1.6 per cent.

Taking the year overall, American economic expansion should average out at 6.7 per cent., the highest annual growth since 1955, the report said.

Mr Larry Speakes, White House spokesman, commented: "This report is quite encouraging. Inflation remains low and under control and most indicators are positive."

"We are passing through a transitional slowdown period and headed for the sustained prosperity that we expect to take place in the months ahead."

News Round-up

BHOPAL A POLL ISSUE

THE Bhopal gas disaster became an Indian general election issue yesterday when Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, an Opposition leader, demanded the resignation of Mr Arjun Singh, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh state, writes Balram Tandon.

Mr Vajpayee said the state government could not escape responsibility for neglecting to ensure that safety measures at the Union Carbide plant were enforced. It was even more guilty of failing to offer adequate relief immediately, thus leading to loss of life.

Meanwhile as scientists and technicians were putting the pesticides plant through the final run to process the remaining quantities of methyl isocyanate gas, a civil judge in the city issued an injunction against the disposal of any Union Carbide factory property.

Officials of Union Carbide said they had processed 16 tons of the gas by last evening. The operation is to continue today, when they have also to decide how to dispose of further 1.2 tons stored in steel containers.

Russia accused of genocide

The United States, in its strongest indictment of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, accused Soviet troops of conducting genocide against the Afghan people, inflicting hundreds of thousands of casualties among civilians and resistance fighters and causing some 4,000,000 Afghans to leave their country.

In a summary on the fifth anniversary of the Soviet Union's 1979 Christmas Eve invasion, the State Department said that Moscow had stepped up its "cynical and brutal war" against the Afghan people with new aggressiveness and high level saturation bombing of densely populated areas.

Basque leader

resigns

The Basque country plagued by separatist terrorism and disrupted by serious industrial unrest, facing major cuts in heavy industry was plunged into a political crisis with the resignation of Senor Carlos Garaikoetxea, Prime Minister of the region's autonomous government.

He resigned after the National Assembly of his moderate Basque Nationalist party refused to back his demands that Victoria, capital of the Basque country, should have overall power in the administration of the region.

Jews sent to

labour camps

A teacher of Hebrew received a three-year labour-camp sentence in Moscow on charges of possessing drugs. His family say police planted marijuana in the flat of Yuli Edelstein, an Orthodox Jew from Moscow, who they confiscated all his Hebrew books.

Jewish sources said that in Leningrad, Nadezhda Fradkova, who wants to emigrate, was sentenced to two years in a labour camp for "parasitism" or not having a job. Confined in a psychiatric hospital last July, she was recently released but then detained in prison.

3 Iranian guard

commanders killed

Three senior commanders of Iran's revolutionary guards were killed in the past week in battles with guerrillas opposing Ayatollah Khomeini's regime, according to reports reaching London.

Two were shot in Teheran, and a third in Shiraz. The three deaths mark the culmination of an uprising in activity by the Mujahideen, main opponents of the Khomeini Government.

Lands returned

The Maralinga lands, about 50,000 square miles in the north-west of South Australia, have been returned to the Aboriginals, who were moved from Maralinga in the 1950s because of British atom-bomb tests.

Canal toll increase

Tolls levied on ships passing through the Suez Canal will be raised by an average three per cent. from Jan. 1, 1985, the Middle East News Agency quoted Mr Adel Fazzal, chairman of the Canal Authority, as saying.

Air strike

A strike by Air New Zealand cabin crews has left thousands of passengers stranded at airports around New Zealand. The strike is in protest against a new computerised rostering system.

Water polluted

Several thousands households in Belgrade and its suburbs have been without water for many days because of pollution of the river Sava.

UNESCO DECISION

The United States confirmed on yesterday that it will withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation at the end of the month. America gave such notice at the end of 1983, complaining that UNESCO had become too politicised and wasteful in its operations. —A.P.

Famine relief in Sudan crippled by fuel shortage

By JAMES MacMANUS Diplomatic Staff

A NATIONWIDE shortage of fuel is hampering emergency relief operations in Sudan where thousands of refugees are daily arriving across the eastern and western frontiers in search of food.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees says that a shipment of 82,000 tons of sorghum from the United States, bound for Chadian refugees in Western Sudan, is beginning to arrive at the railroad in the region, but cannot be sent onwards by lorry for lack of fuel.

Aid workers say that in the western provinces of Darfur and Kordofan some 1.2 million people are suffering from drought including 100,000 Chadians.

The lack of fuel for lorries has been aggravated by the antiquated railway system which takes 10 days to haul goods from Khartoum to the western border area 600 miles away.

In the normally fertile eastern provinces where drought has reduced this year's harvest sharply leaving Sudan with a food deficit of 1.165,000 tons, shortages of fuel and transport are also obstructing relief operations.

Mr Tim Phipps, Deputy Director of Save the Children Fund who returned from Sudan yesterday said last night: "Sudan's food deficit is probably worse than that in Ethiopia and the need for aid is critical. Sudan with a population of 20 million, is hosting some 1.2 million refugees from Chad, Zaïre, Uganda and Ethiopia."

Mr Terry Waite, personal representative of Dr Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury had, to recognise yesterday that patience is a virtue.

It was his second day in Tripoli where he hopes to persuade the Libyans to release the four Britons held since the embassy siege in London last April.

He waited four hours in his sixth-floor hotel room overlooking the Mediterranean and despite a "phone call" to the Libyan foreign affairs department to remind them of his presence in the country and an assurance from them that he would be contacted, by nightfall he was still maintaining his lonely vigil by the telephone.

Mr Waite, who successfully negotiated the release of seven hostages from Iran four years ago, was asked to undertake his mission by Dr Runcie following appeals from the men's families who felt not enough was being done on their behalf by the British Government.

They are: Malcolm Anderson, an oil engineer; Michael Berdinner, English lecturer at Tripoli University; Robin Plummer, a telephone engineer and Alan Russell, an English teacher.

Curbs on visas

It is believed that if Mr Waite gets to meet Col. Gaddafi, as he hopes, or at least senior members of the Libyan Government, he will be able to indicate that some relaxation of the curbs on visas for Libyans would follow if the four Britons were released.

Though he is in Tripoli strictly as a representative of a religious emergency relief aid for Ethiopian famine victims, the United States information agency in Washington is making the library a donation of 2,000 books.

The Senator, accompanied by his son, Teddy, Kennedy Junior and daughter Kara, is making a five-day tour to Ethiopia to tour famine areas.

He will make it clear, however, that there can be no question of bartering or exchanging the four men for the Libyans awaiting trial in Britain, next month for alleged terrorist offences.

Low turn-out in Zia election referendum

By M. AFTAB in Islamabad

THE Pakistani referendum to elect President Zia ul Haq for a five-year term went through peacefully, although the turn-out was low. Police clashed with Opposition activists in Lahore.

The Government had expected an "exceptionally high" turn-out among the 33.5 million registered voters to approve Zia's five-year term, and his policies and plans to Islamise the country.

In most urban areas, the turnout ranged between 20 and 30 per cent., and around 40 per cent. in rural areas. Election Commission officials say the result is expected by Sunday.

Gen Zia, who voted at a school near his office in Rawalpindi, said elections for an Islamic Parliament would be held by March.

In Lahore, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, the 11-party Opposition alliance against Zia, staged a protest meeting. Mr D sources said the meeting, attended by 10,000 people, was baton-charged by the police eight times.

Fifteen people were injured in clashes with the police and there were 24 arrests.

'Resign' call

Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, one of the M.R.D. leaders, said the low-turnout meant that the referendum had boycotted the referendum. President Zia should now accept the people's verdict and resign.

Malik Mohammed Oasim, another leader, said: "We will not respect or recognise Zia as President, and we will not accept the results of this rigged election."

He promised agitation by the movement "to bring down Zia but keep the country together."

Oasim said the agitation would be non-violent and methods in order to gain a Western style Parliamentary democracy.

But, in case the Zia regime persisted and stayed on power by one means or another, the "may take over the opposition to the regime making Pakistan's traditional politicians irrelevant."

Objecting to the Opposition's campaign call to deny the Government a two-thirds majority and thereby its ability to pass constitutional amendments, Mr Dhanabalan dismissed leaders of other parties as either "unintelligent" or "fools."

The Government-controlled Singapore Press has meanwhile highlighted what is obviously a parts campaign to demolish Opposition hopes.

Mr S. Dhanabalan, Foreign Minister, was quoted in "one front-page account as describing the Opposition line-up as a "rag-tag bunch."

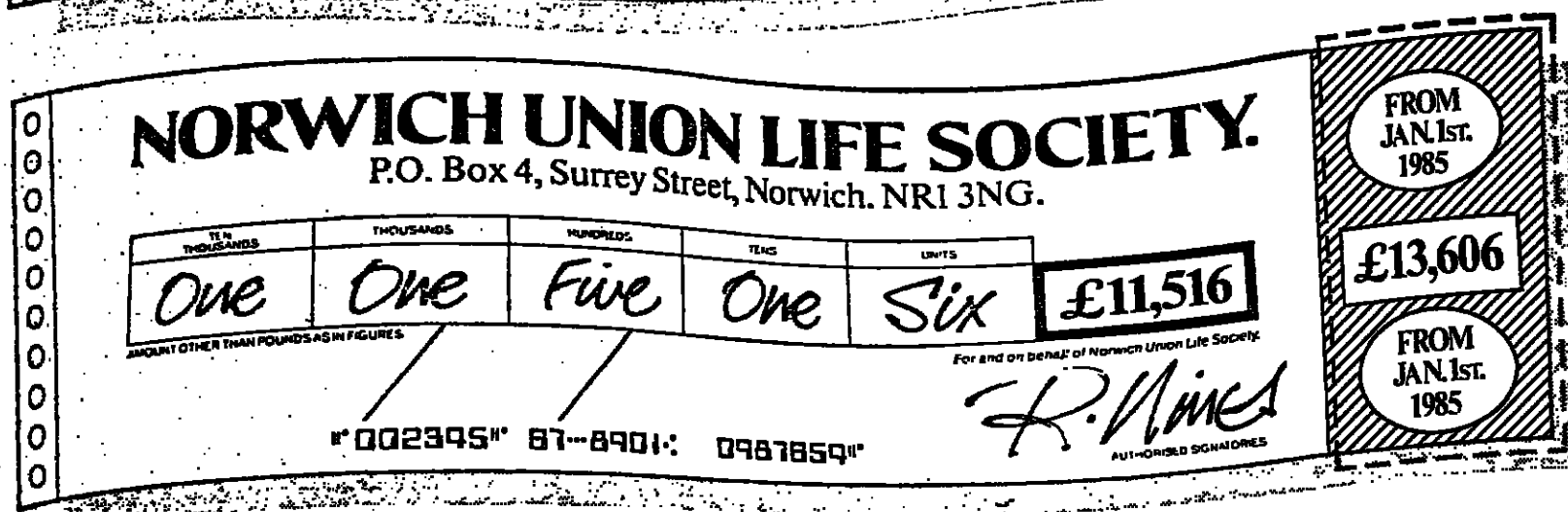
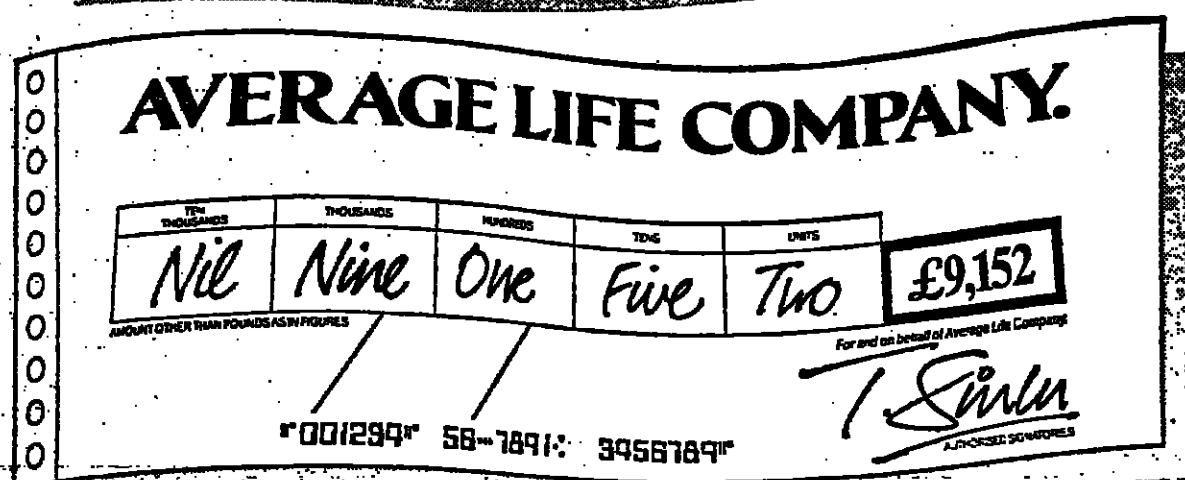
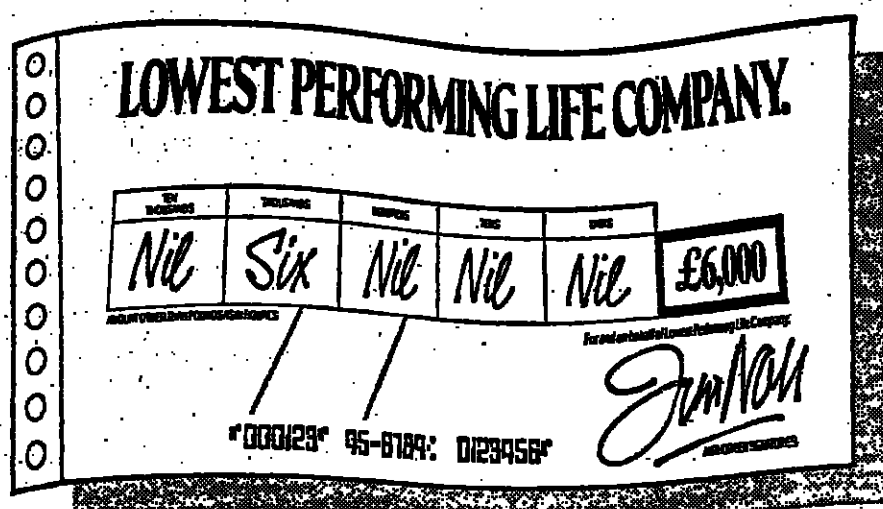
Objecting to the Opposition's campaign call to deny the Government a two-thirds majority and thereby its ability to pass constitutional amendments, Mr Dhanabalan dismissed leaders of other parties as either "unintelligent" or "fools."

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150

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FOR PENSIONS TOO

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age 65 who has paid 16 premiums of £500 per annum (£8,000) would have available to buy a pension a payout of £13,815 from the lowest performing company, from an average company £21,055 but from Norwich Union £22,861. On 1 January 1985 Norwich Union's payout will be increased to £30,106. Another staggering difference from other companies.

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We believe there's only one answer to the question: "Which Insurance Company should I choose?" Talk to your financial adviser. We're sure he'll agree you're better off the Norwich Way.

YOU'RE BETTER OFF THE NORWICH WAY.



*Source: Money Management Magazine May & September 1984

Captivated by the Tower

WHEN I finally came to rest, so to speak, after a number of years going from one Service posting to another in the wake of my RAF husband, I could hardly believe my surroundings.

It is well known that an Englishman's home is his castle but this was ridiculous: for here I was, in one.

Battlements, bugles and Beefeaters, they were everywhere. No, yeoman warders (as is their correct title) do not sound bugles, but the army guard does and it delights my ear. I use the present tense because a sojourn of eight years in Her Majesty's Tower of London—as the wife of a yeoman warder, enters the very soul and remains there, making it difficult to place the experience in the past.

But, in as many weeks as it takes to fly home for an interview with the resident governor, be vetted and finally accepted by the constable of the Tower, we were there, snugly ensconced in the casemates.

These latter are not to be confused with casemates, which are windows, and the Tower casemates distinctly suffer from a paucity of these. The casemates are situated within the thickness of the outer ballium wall of the fortress, overlooking the moat, and rare is the moat that you will espy as you approach the Tower.

A casemate is a room within a fortified building and arrowslits abound. Quite quickly I discovered that the arrowslit in my bathroom was an excellent

BY SHELAGH ABBOTT

lent place to keep beer and milk until my refrigerator came out of store.

As the days went by, the Tower of London took hold of me with a clutch that I am sure will never be loosened. Thirty-eight yeoman warders, almost as many wives, a sprinkling of children, a multitude of dogs and cats—the odd voluble parrot—and I had a family around me of which to be more than proud.

Over this family, as is a squire to a village, we

have the resident governor as well as the padre and a medical officer. The governor and the padre are self-explanatory but the doctor's presence, as a resident, is perhaps a little surprising to outsiders.

Every night for past hundreds of years the Tower has been, and is, ceremoniously locked. All who wish to go must be out of the Tower by the stroke of midnight. All residents who wish to enter (and on foot only) must do so by 3 a.m. to the minute.

These time-honoured rulings mean that medical emergencies can occur within these, our "silent hours," and it requires a doctor's decision to waken the governor and request that the gates be opened to admit the passage of an ambulance.

My tiny "quarter" has bulged with every kind of visitor invited as personal friends to savour the Tower at night, drinking Malmsey wine with us with the Duke of Clarence as the Toast. For was he not drowned in a vat of

the same just a few yards away? Tales are told of rare adventures, escapes and alarms and ghostly happenings.

For it was impossible at times to find an explanation for footsteps with nobody present, voices with no faces, such as that of the girl who kept saying: "Mum, Mum," and the ultimate complete apparition. Twice, a man appeared in my room, not in doublet and hose, but wearing clothes from this century.

But for me, perhaps, the most remarkable visitor was an astronaut. We walked together towards Traitors Gate. It was near 10 o'clock when the Ceremony of the Keys would lock this ancient pile against the outside world.

The moon hung above us and I remarked to my companion that I could scarce believe he had walked upon it and returned to earth to be beside me at that moment.

His reply was an earnest look and the revelation that his boyhood wish had been to visit the Tower and now to find himself a temporary part of its tradition was a total honour.



DRESSING FOR THE OCCASION...

FINDING something warm but glamorous to wear at Christmas is a problem, especially if your day involves everything from a bracing walk to having a hefty turkey in and out of the oven.

dress is both pretty and practical, with its double cowl collar that can be wrapped hood-style around the head or simply left twisted as we show it here.

less delicate colours include black, blue, pink, red and royal blue. In small, medium and large sizes it costs £86-10 by Fenn, Wright and Manson from Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1, The Vestry, South Mol-

ton Street, London W1 and Focus, Kings Road, SW3. Diamond drop earrings from Mappin and Webb, Regent Street, London W1. Pictures by KENNETH MASON.

Ann Chubb

EATING IN

WITH BON VIVEUR

A MENU TO ENHANCE THAT NEW YEAR MAGIC

THE MENU

- Apicus Eggs
- Toast Melba
- Bass Dugleré
- Eminecs de Chevreuil ou boeuf
- Salade Port Royale
- Soufflés des Aubergines
- Pommes Dauphines
- Boule de Neige
- Crunchies

It will be 10 to dinner on New Year's Eve and our traditional family punch at midnight. Then the good talk can go on and we can enjoy our family and closest friends.

The Apicus Eggs are poached last of all. The mushrooms are first, drilled with an optional touch of garlic, coated with sauce and set in a

ring, with prawns in the centre. The bass is scored slantwise, poached in a simple court bouillon, dished up on a base of sauce dugleré, and bordered by a macedoine of diced, winter vegetables turned in melted butter. The Eminces de Chevreuil ou Boeuf is merely the remains of a very underdone roast of either venison or beef,

sliced thinly, laid in a bordelaise sauce and just heated through. It is ruined if cooked for longer.

The Boule de Neige consists of any chosen ice creams layered and half filled into two ordinary pudding basins, then thawed, clapped together, wrapped in light sponge, piped with whipped cream all over.

INGREDIENTS FOR FATLESS SPONGE: 2½ oz sifted self-raising flour; 4oz castor sugar; 3 No. 3 eggs.

METHOD: Cover a heat-resistant plate with foil, tip on sugar and bake at 425F (Gas 7) one shelf above centre for 6 min. Meanwhile break eggs into an electric mixer bowl. Tip on hot sugar and whip at full speed until mixture rises in a golden foam. Switch off, fold in flour and spread evenly over a 14 x 10 x 1 in deep baking tin lined with oiled greaseproof paper. Bake for 1 min at same temperature and position. If making in advance just cool in tin then freeze to thaw when serving.

CRUNCHIES

INGREDIENTS: 7oz butter; 5oz sifted icing sugar; the grated rind of 1 small lemon; 9oz self-raising flour; 2oz bought or home-made almond paste; castor sugar.

METHOD: Whip the butter to a loose cream, add the sugar and repeat. Then add the lemon rind and rub in the flour and almond paste until fine-grained. Now begin kneading. As you do so, mixture will form a strong dough. Roll into a sausage shape. Refrigerate the roll wrapped in foil ready to top off 1-in-thick biscuit rounds. Before doing so roll the uncut roll in egg yolk and then in castor sugar. Lay the discs on rice paper or an oiled baking sheet and bake at 400F (Gas 6) on centre shelf for 8 to 10 min, by which time edges will have browned. Do not overcook until browned all over. Serve plain or else trim the edges, clap biscuits in pairs with a little coffee icing between, spread more on top and scatter the crumbled edge trimmings over. Store in an air-tight tin. Make mixture now and refrigerate, roll wrapped like bought sausage meat.

BOULE DE NEIGE

METHOD: This can be made with any cream ice or mixture of cream ices, home-made or bought. To obtain the "snowball" appearance without buying a special mould just oil two 2½ lb pudding basins and barely half fill each. Then freeze. Also freeze a panel of fatless sponge (see below). Dip the two bowls into hot water sufficiently to slide both out and clap one upon the other. While the exterior is still softened by the hot water, press the fatless sponge all round the snowball until completely masked. Return to freezer until just before service. Pipe residues of whipped cream over the sponge to complete the snowball. If wishing to be traditional, drive a sprig of real or artificial holly in at top centre, wrapping the real stem with a scrap of foil first.

SALADE PORT ROYALE

INGREDIENTS: 1½ lb diced steamed potatoes; ½ lb peeled, sliced and chopped eating apples; ½ lb diced cooked French beans (either tinned or frozen); 1 teaspoon mayonnaise; the strained juice of 1 lemon; 4 hard-boiled eggs, shelled; 1 additional teaspoon mayonnaise flavoured with curry paste; 2 small quartered lemons or radicchio.

METHOD: Mix prepared potatoes, apples and beans with plain mayonnaise and arrange in a shallow glass dish. Shape into a slight dome, cover with a spread of curry

crushed garlic clove; 4H oz dry white cooking wine; salt; freshly milled black pepper; 2 tablespoons thick white sauce (velouté); 4oz butter; 1H oz oil.

METHOD: Slice the body of the two fish into 1-in-thick slices. Melt 2oz of the given butter in a shallow, heat-resistant oven dish. Fry the onion until soft without browning. Work in the chopped leeks and carrots, fry for 10 min. Add the wine, dot with flakes of remaining butter and optional garlic. Bake under a lid, basting just once, at 375F (Gas 5) mid-shelf of oven for 15 to 20 min. Lift out the fish slices and keep warm; discard the bay and thyme. Add white sauce to pan mixture and work thoroughly with the back of a wooden spoon. Taste, correct seasoning, then spoon on to the chafing dish so that the sauce covers the base completely. Lay in the fish slices to re-form the body of the fish.

EMINECS DE CHEVREUIL OU BOEUF

INGREDIENTS: At least two very thin slices apiece underdone venison or beef.

INGREDIENTS FOR SAUCE BORDELAISE: 15H oz string red wine; 2 rounded tablespoons chopped shallots; a 5in sprig of thyme; 1 torn bay leaf; 2oz butter; 2 rounded dessertspoons freshly milled or chopped parsley; 1 pint hot or venison stock; 2 large marrow bones; salt and pepper.

METHOD: Scoop the marrow bone out of the bones (6oz) then dice as neatly as possible. Steam under a lid over boiling water until just tender. Reduce the red wine with the shallots, thyme and bay leaf to two-thirds, i.e. 10H oz, and the stock to a thick syrup consistency. Blend the two, gather, strain finely then work, season lightly with salt and pepper, test high with aluminium foil and just heat through at 325F (Gas 3). On completion, border with Pommes Dauphines alternated with individual Soufflés des Aubergines.

POMMES DAUPHINES

INGREDIENTS: Choux pastry (see below); 1½ lb steamed, sieved potatoes; 1oz Parmesan and 1oz Emmenthal cheeses, grated; 1 tablespoon milled grated; 2oz finely-chopped parsley heads; 2oz finely-diced, cooked ham; salt and black pepper; hot oil in deep fryer.

METHOD: Beat choux pastry into potato purée. Add all remaining ingredients, except frying oil. Roll into small balls in very little flour, pack into a lidded plastic box and freeze,

THE RECIPES

APICUS EGGS

INGREDIENTS: 10 large flat mushrooms; 2 crushed garlic cloves (optional); 3H oz oil; 20 unshelled prawns; 7H oz thick white sauce; 5H oz water; 2½H oz dry white cooking wine; 2 separated egg yolks; 2 tablespoons thick cream; 10 No. 2 eggs.

METHOD: Shell the prawns completely and put shells and heads in a small pan with water and butter. Raise to boiling and simmer for 7 min. Meanwhile, add crushed garlic to given oil and de-stalk mushrooms, then draw the hollow cups through the oil and grill for 2 to 3 min on each side, and keep warm. Cool shell mixture, strain and beat in egg yolks then cream. Keep warm in a double saucepan over hot water. At moment of service, poach 4 eggs apiece, slide into mushroom cups, add the made thick white sauce and arrange in a ring on a heated dish. Fold the shelled prawns into the warm prawn sauce. Spoon over the eggs and optionally garnish with watercress. Hand really hot Toast Melba separately.

METHOD: Toast plenty of this slice from a cut sandwich loaf. Remove all crusts. With a very sharp knife, halve each toasted slice centrally, thus exposing the untoasted middle. Toast these and that is Toast Melba.

SOUFFLES DES AUBERGINES

INGREDIENTS: 5 small to medium aubergines; salt and pepper; 1½ lb steamed, sieved potatoes; 6 separated No. 3 egg whites; 2 egg yolks; ½ pint milk; 2oz grated Parmesan; 1oz grated Gruyère or Emmenthal.

METHOD: Remove the stem ends then halve the aubergines lengthwise. Scoop out the flesh deeply with a small, sharp knife, sprinkle thickly with salt and leave until flesh turns light brown and salt draws out the slight bitterness in small brown bubbles. Wipe these off. Place cut-side downwards in a steamer and steam under a lid until sufficiently tender to scrape out flesh and make finely. Make the soufflé mixture, beginning with a roux of flour and butter, then diluting gradually with milk and aubergine purée, alternatingly. Add salt and pepper to taste and work in the Gruyère or Emmenthal cheese. Beat in egg yolks off the heat, add stiffly-whipped milk and pack into the hollowed out aubergine skins. Dome these up, sprinkle with the Parmesan and bake for 30 min on a flat baking sheet in a pre-heated oven at 425F (Gas 7) one shelf above centre.

BASS DUGLERÉ

INGREDIENTS: Two 1½ lb bass, cleaned but not scaled; 1 heaped tablespoon finely-chopped onion; 4 de-pipped and peeled tomatoes, chopped small; 1 rounded tablespoon coarsely chopped fresh parsley heads; 1 4-in sprig of thyme; 1 small bay leaf; 1 small peeled,

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Special Christmas shopping hours for week commencing 17th December: open until 5.30pm Monday, 8pm Tuesday, Wednesday, 9pm Thursday-Friday, 6pm Saturday. Shopping to car service available, please ask.

DISCOVER Bejam THE WORLD OF FROZEN FOOD

Sir GEOFFREY Howe, has presented Mr GORBACHEV with four cases exemplifying the problems of human rights activists in the Soviet Union, and rightly the plight of Dr ANDREI SAKHAROV, the Nobel prize-winner who has been so disgracefully treated for so long, was high on the list. But Mr GORBACHEV has been let off lightly, and it would be wrong to think he knows it. It is right to "do business" with the Soviet Union in as many areas as possible, and right also to remind the Soviet leadership as often and as forcibly as possible that its record on human rights just isn't good enough.

Rising wind

TAKING ADVANTAGE of the ending of copyright restrictions, a new musical version of Kenneth

The absurdity of their views and

There is little doubt that some aspects of factory-farming and animal research are worrying and that many creatures, domestic and wild, need help. Unfortunately, however, the activities of the animal liberators are almost entirely counter-productive and can cause more stress and cruelty than they prevent.

Taylor remembers that he was in Washington when the battle began and after a 3,000 mile journey by cargo plane, staff car and Jeep, he fought up with his men as they liberated the town of Bastogne.

A group of drama-loving diplomats have decided that instead of the anto—usually a high spot in the otherwise dull year—they will produce a music hall show in the embassy's amenities hall next month.

I gather that an appeal has gone out to the girls in the typing pool for some of them to volunteer as "buxom benches" to sell beer to what is expected will be a sell-out audience.

(Dr.) JOHN MARKS
Chairman of Council,
British Medical Assn.
London, W.C.1

H. J. MORGAN
London, S.W.7.

A driver who can appreciate when 00 mph would be safe, and when 0 mph is too fast, must be safer than one who relies on signposts alone to regulate his speed.

In revenge

but assumed it was revenge for
redbrick."

ARTHUR HALL
Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex.

(Cllr) DAVID WILSHIRE
Leader, Wansdyke Dist. Cncl.
Keynsham Town Hall.

culbless. A letter addressed to the author which the publishers' representative undertook to forward to him remains unacknowledged. Since the title of the book seems likely to pass into everyday language as an assessment of the character of men who may have tried to serve their country to the best of their ability, I wonder, Sir, whether you would permit me to ask the assistance of your readers in ascertaining the precise source of this quotation.

Another quotation from the TIMES that I have discovered refers to the Mayor of Poplar in July 1917 saying that the British were "a nation of lions governed by asses."

But all the evidence at present is that regarding Ludendorff and Hoffmann, we are in the presence of one more piece of reprehensible World War I mythology.

Deadly permutations

SIR.—Without entering the debate on fluoridation, I desire to correct Mr A. Henry Bailey (Dec. 11), that "Hundreds died in 1918 through malnutrition called Spanish flu."

comet and whose nutrition was not suspect, with equal severity. It respected neither weak nor strong, old nor young, impoverished, nor affluent, whole families being wiped out within 48 hours of onset.

(Dr.) A. M. JONES
Cardiff.

SIR—"What became of billiards?" asks Mr Eric Gillibrand (Dec. 5). Alas, countless thousands who played it well, signified to the world that they had

But with snooker, pecuniary ambitions are also possible, and the sky's the limit!

Neat distraction

"Up to" relates to choice: It is up to you which coat you buy.
 "Down to" relates to responsibility: It is down to you if you miss the bus.

London W4

Rules on police use of spying gear tightened

By T. A. SANDROCK Crime Correspondent

POLICE use of surveillance equipment is to be subjected to more detailed and rigorous procedures. Mr Brittan, Home Secretary, announced yesterday.

The new guidelines follow a review into the use of the equipment, and replace the previous guidance issued in 1977.

The Home Secretary said he was satisfied the scale of use of surveillance devices particularly in circumstances where most "sensitive questions of privacy arise" was not excessive.

There are five main changes:

1. IN GENERAL such devices for listening or visual surveillance are to be used only when an investigation concerns serious crime, normal investigation methods have been tried and failed or from the nature of things are unlikely to succeed if tried, there is good reason to think use of the equipment was likely to lead to arrest and conviction, and for the prevention of acts of terrorism.

Records kept

2. AUTHORITY for the use of such equipment has been specified, with the chief constable's personal authority being required in an extended range of circumstances before devices are used.

3. MORE DETAILED records are to be kept on the use of both aural and visual surveillance equipment, and these records are to be made available for inspection by HM Inspectors of Constabulary.

4. GUIDANCE is given on retention of the product of surveillance, its use in court proceedings and outside the police service and its destruction when no longer needed.

5. EXPLICITLY ruled out is the use of devices in circumstances such as in a public telephone box where the sole purpose or only foreseeable result of their use is to overhear speech transmitted by telephone.

Under the new guidelines records must be kept for both aural and visual devices as well as previously the case.

Wide variety

"The guidelines make clear that a range of surveillance devices is used for a wide variety of purposes and all forces make use of surveillance devices to a greater or lesser extent," Mr Brittan states in reply to a written Commons question.

"In view of this wide range"

of devices and circumstances statistical information would be meaningful only if it were broken down to indicate different types of device and operation.

"But it would not be in the interests of the prevention and detection of crime for information to be made public in this degree of detail."

He was confident the revised and tightened guidelines coupled with the attention that will "continue to be given to these matters" by Inspectors of Constabulary would ensure devices of all kinds were used only where strictly necessary for proper and efficient conduct of police operations and with due regard for the intrusion of privacy which may result in particular circumstances.

Key factor

But it must also be recognised, the guidelines state, that police use of the equipment may involve encroachment on privacy, and the circumstances in which the equipment was used were generally the key factor in determining public attitudes.

"Most concern is directed towards the use of equipment in circumstances where targets of surveillance might reasonably assume a high degree of privacy, for example in their homes or in a hotel bedroom."

Surveillance of public places such as shopping precincts or football grounds, if undertaken responsibly, was usually less contentious, the general guidelines state.

"But the increasing sophistication of equipment enhances the need for sensitivity at all times in its use."

"Careful consideration at a senior level in the police service therefore needs to be given in each case to all the circumstances of the particular investigation or operation before the use of equipment for surveillance operations is authorised," the directions state.

£5m needed to save four medical projects

By OUR HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

FOUR medical research projects in which Britain has a world lead will be lost unless an extra £5 million a year can be made available, the Medical Research Council said yesterday.

The Government-financed council suffered a cut in real terms of £4,700,000 in its budget this year and is now waiting anxiously to see how much it will be allocated for next year's research programmes.

Sir James Gowans, secretary, said that unless this year's grant of £117 million is increased by at least £5 million it will be unable to go ahead with four top priority projects.

These are a new centre at Oxford University to apply discoveries of molecular biology to medicine; development of techniques to give accurate internal pictures of the human body at Hamamatsu Hospital; the development of a centre for neurobiology; and a new centre for collaborative research between universities and industry.

Sir James said: "It is impossible to keep research programmes going in a situation where our budget is continually being eroded and the financial future is so uncertain."

"There is a great deal of talent in this country but it needs to be exploited. He said that a number of industrial companies had shown interest in the creation of a research centre to solve problems which could then profitably be exploited by industry. A suitable site had been found at Mill Hill, Hendon.

Heart research

One proposed project for the new centre was research into an agent which could influence the lack of oxygen to the heart which is what causes damage after heart failure.

"We should like this centre to be a showcase to draw industry to attention to our research work and to collaborate with industry on projects for their benefit which will not only be useful for human welfare but for wealth creation."

The proposed Oxford University unit would apply the lessons of molecular biology to medicine. It would include the development of better methods of detecting abnormalities in unborn babies, work on the detection of individuals at risk from particular diseases, and the engineering of new vaccines.

Sir James said: "These are areas where we have some excellent research workers, but we are in grave danger of falling behind unless we make some effort."

the scale we want, to make it sufficiently enticing to get people back from the United States, unless we can get the money to finance it quickly."

Professor John Newsom-Davis, chairman of the council's Neurobiology and Mental Health Board, said many good research projects were being turned down for lack of money and young researchers were going abroad.

APPEAL JUDGES REFUSE BAR ON EEC PAYMENT

Mr Oliver Smedley, an anti-Common Market campaigner, yesterday failed in his Appeal Court to stop Britain giving the EEC an extra £121.5 million towards the overspending of its budget.

Mr Smedley, 65, of Saffron Walden, Essex, vice president of the Liberal party, claimed the proposed payment was unlawful and the decision to make it should be quashed. But Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Slade and Lord Justice Lloyd, said they were unable to say the proposed payment was unlawful.

Britain gave the undertaking to pay the money together with other EEC members in Luxembourg in October. The draft Order in Council has yet to be approved by both houses of Parliament.

Embryo implants 'must be illegal'

By DAVID FLETCHER Health Services Correspondent

LEGISLATION to make it a criminal offence to put a human embryo into an animal was demanded by Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi, yesterday.

He was responding to a statement by Mr Patrick Steptoe and Dr Robert Edwards, the test tube baby pioneers, that valuable lessons were being learnt from implanting human embryos into a rabbit or a sheep for short periods.

They emphasised that they had no intention of carrying out such an experiment at present but that the acquisition of knowledge might be thwarted in the future if such research was declared illegal.

The Chief Rabbi endorsed the view of the Government-appointed Warnock Committee that the "placing of a human

embryo in the uterus of another species should be a criminal offence."

Sir Immanuel added: "We are never justified in sacrificing a single human life on the altar of science even with the prospect that we might thereby save millions in the future."

Need for legislation

"Human life, generated from test tubes and petri dishes, sustained by artificial foods and drugs and terminated by unplugging some life support machine, may be reduced to a form of mechanisation in which the incomparable grandeur of the human spirit, the genius of the human mind and the noblest virtues of the human heart are asphyxiated in the exhaust fumes of our technological wonders."

Dr Peggy Norris, secretary of the British section of the World Federation of Doctors Who Respect Human Life, said that

growing human embryos in animals would be outrageous.

Mrs Naala Starisbrick, administrator of the anti-abortion association I.F.E., said the suggestion of human embryo implants into animals was the final warning that legislation was urgently needed.

'RIGHT TO KNOW' Sperm destroyed

JULIAN ISHERWOOD in Stockholm writes: Sweden is to destroy all its human sperm banks by March 1 to cater for a law on artificial insemination which gives a sperm donor's child the right to know the name of his or her biological father.

In the first legislation of its type in the West, the law provides for artificially conceived children to have the right to full information on their donor father as soon as they reach adulthood.

AIRPORT OPTIONS DISCUSSED

By VALERIE ELLIOTT Political Staff

MR RIDLEY, transport secretary, is expected to make a Commons statement today on the Government's intentions for the future of the Civil Aviation Bill.

This week Tory MPs opposed to plans for the expansion of Stansted Airport and the restriction of flights at Heathrow have twice blocked the passage of the Bill through its Commons committee.

Mr Ridley discussed the options available yesterday with senior ministers and is thought to be unlikely to withdraw the Bill together. He is expected to attempt a compromise solution.

The three Conservatives who voted with Labour and Liberal members on the committee to defeat the motion, Mr John Wilkinson (Ruislip Northwood) chairman of the Conservative aviation committee, Mr Anthony Steen (South Hams) and Mr Patrick Thompson (Norwich North) have indicated that they would support the Government if it agreed to give an assurance that flights at Heathrow would not be limited to 275,000 a year.

They believe that by placing control on Heathrow would inevitably lead to the expansion of Stansted, as they claim it would prejudice Mr Ridley's final decision on the Stansted inquiry report.

The Government has, however, given a pledge to passengers near Heathrow that with the operation of Terminal Four at Heathrow, expected next October, air traffic movements will be limited to 275,000 a year.

Mr Ridley told the Commons during the second reading of the Bill, which seeks powers to control the number of flights, that they wished to keep that undertaking.

The pledge was given as far back as 1979 on environmental grounds during a planning inquiry into a possible fourth terminal at the airport.

It is important to note that no actual limit or mention of the 275,000 flights a year pledge, is given in the Bill.

The Bill merely seeks powers to impose necessary limits if and when required, and there is no guarantee that they will be invoked.

SAUDI CASH FOR LEAR FAN WORK

A private consortium, the Saudi-controlled Zayia Corporation, has agreed to give a substantial extra cash to the troubled Lear Fan executive jet project in Ulster, the Northern Ireland Minister of State, Dr Rhodes Boyson, disclosed in the Commons yesterday. He hoped that work in the Ulster factories—interrupted in August because of delays in getting a U.S. airworthiness certificate—could be resumed soon. But it will need only 1,100 jobs instead of the 2,800 originally visualised.

Young heroes receive prizes from Princess

By GERALD BARTLETT

A YOUNG girl who rescued her family from a fire, and boys who saved theirs from serious injury or death in car crashes, were among 10 youngsters presented with "Children of Courage" awards by Princess Anne in Westminster Abbey yesterday.

The Princess, Save the Children Fund president, heard how Michael Ross, 13, from Moray, Scotland, fought off masked raiders—ripping off one's mask—who struck at his home, a village sub-post office.

His 70-year-old grandmother, Mrs Helen Angus, woke in the early hours to find a masked man in her bedroom who demanded the keys to the post office.

When she screamed the raider held her down and covered her face. Awakened by the row, Michael's mother, Mrs Ada Ross, ran to the fire alarm which had broken out in the living room.

Princess Anne also gave awards to Dominic Jones, 12, of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, who mugged-tackled an escaping crook, Simon Wright, nine, of Selkirk, Birmingham, who saved his cousin from a dog, Emma and Louise Maclean, two and four respectively, from Inverness, who helped to raise £1.5 million for Save the Children. Bone Marrow Appeal. Each child received a trophy—a bird set in plastic—and a scroll with a citation which was read at the service by the actor, Anthony Andrews. The awards were presented by WOMAN'S OWN.

Trapped inside

Michael leapt at one of the raiders and in the struggle he was hit repeatedly on the head and shoulder with a wooden baton. His injuries included a serious head wound and he was in hospital for two days.

Kelly Smith, 11, from Bromley, got up early to give her mother a Mothering Sunday cup of tea—and ended up saving her family from a fire which had broken out in the living room.

She dashed upstairs to tell her mother and stepfather, shot the living room door to explain the fire, and went to neighbour's house to telephone the fire brigade and took her brother and sister to her grandmother's house.

Princess Anne was also told that a 16-year-old passenger in his mother's car, Bradley Ruddle, 11, from Sheering, Essex, "could only watch in horror" as another car slewed across a narrow road, crashed into them and set both vehicles alight.

His mother was knocked unconscious and his grandmother and sister together with his sister's friend were all trapped in the back.

But Bradley did not panic. As flames flicked around them, he got out of the car, opened the back door and helped his grandmother and the two young girls to safety. Then he released his mother's seat belt and dragged her out.

There was also no hesitation from six-year-old Gary Doogan of Putney, when his best friend, Steven Hendry, fell into an icy pond.

Ignoring his fear of water, Gary grabbed his friend's collar and hauled him out. "It was easy," he said yesterday.



PICTURE: SRDJA DJUKANOVIC

Princess Anne on the steps of the Jerusalem Chamber at Westminster Abbey yesterday with youngsters to whom she presented this year's Children of Courage Awards. Holding his scroll of honour above his head is three-year-old Gary Plane, of Burnley, Lancs, who lost both legs after being blown under the wheels of a lorry by a strong gust of wind.

FIRM PUTS A BAN ON BEARDS

By CON COUGHLIN

THE "corporate philosophy" of a Dallas-run computer company which forbids the wearing of beards and lunchtime drinking has erased the festive spirit at its newly-acquired British subsidiary, Unilever Computer Services.

The 200-strong workforce in North London have been told to abide by the "code of ethics" of Electronic Data Services which decrees that men with beards must shave them off.

Moustaches are allowed providing they are neatly trimmed but casual clothes are strictly forbidden as is discussing your pay packet with friends and colleagues.

Helping to identify

Women must wear tight at all times and dress in blouses and skirts and must not under any circumstances wear trousers.

The edicts have left many of the workforce disgruntled. One employee said: "It's appalling."

But the company defended its clean-cut image yesterday, saying its "code of ethics" was generally welcomed by the workforce and helped people to identify themselves with the company.

A spokesman for T.A.S.S., the computer union, said the Dallas code was an erosion of union rights.

Trouble-shooter takes over North London Poly

By SARAH THOMPSON Education Staff

A POLYTECHNIC director who has banned the "expressing of offensive views" and takes a hard line on disruption in his own college is to take over the director's chair temporarily at the trouble-torn Polytechnic of North London.

He is Dr John Beishon, director of the Polytechnic of the South Bank.

In May this year, at the start of the North London Poly's problems over the National Front activist Patrick Harrington, Dr Beishon tightened rules at his own establishment to ensure that he would not meet with the same disruption.

Last night the North London's Court of Governors accepted an ILEA suggestion that Dr Beishon be appointed as director during the forthcoming ILEA inquiry into the college's affairs.

Dr Beishon and the governing body of South Bank Poly acted swiftly in May to state that any student or member of staff "who expresses an opinion" that they know is "likely to cause such grave offence to others as to distract them from their studies" could be suspended.

Activist ostracised

A problem over a National Front activist cropped up at South Bank more than two years ago, but, said Dr Beishon, it was "dealt with so quietly that we've all forgotten about it now."

The student was ostracised so thoroughly by staff and other students that he left.

Twelve days ago Dr David MacDowall handed in his resignation as director at North London Poly, effectively from Dec. 31, on advice from Mrs Frances Morrell, the leader of the ILEA.

Mr Neil Fletcher, chairman of ILEA's Further and Higher Education Sub-committee, said last night that it had been "made clear" to the polytechnic governors that Dr Beishon's appointment was "a very firm recommendation" by the authority.

Student activists at the North London Poly, two of whom have just finished 14-day prison sentences for breaking a court injunction giving Harrington access to lectures, now fear that the polytechnic's officers will take firmer action in suspending or expelling law-breakers.

Yesterday Sir Michael Havers the Attorney General warned the students that unless their union gives him written confirmation that they have not completed allegedly ultra vires payments to a striking miners' support group, a receiver will be sent to the students' union today.

CALL FOR A MINISTER OF GARBAGE

By ROLAND GRIBBIN Business Correspondent

A MINISTER of Waste should be appointed to halt the loss of an estimated £750 million a year of materials that could be used again, the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry said in a report yesterday.

The Minister would have responsibility for co-ordinating campaigns to ensure more of the 36 million tonnes of waste a year generated from homes and industry is recycled. At present only 15 million tonnes is used again.

The committee, headed by Mr Kenneth Warren (C, Hastings and Rye) calls for higher priority to be given by the Government to waste issues and grants to local authorities for specific recycling schemes. It praises the Greater London Council and other authorities for "commendable" initiatives.

The all-party group also urges the Government to give incentives to industry for companies recycling waste, and to consider how tax changes could be used to encourage greater use of waste materials being given a second lease of life.

Poor record

The report says that about £1.8 billion worth of waste products are recycled every year, mainly scrap for the steel industry, but the potential is much greater.

A vast amount of waste, paper, metals, textiles, plastics, glass and other valuable material is lost each year and Britain's record on recycling compares unfavourably with other European countries.

One reason is the large numbers of cheap dumping sites available in Britain.

Waste of Waste, Environment Office, 28-30.

LAW APPOINTMENTS

By OUR Political Staff

Sir Brian Thomas Neill, 55, who has served in the Queen's Bench Division since 1973, has been appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal. Mr Derek Holden, 49, who has been a recorder since 1980, has been appointed a circuit judge, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.



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This Authority serves a local population of over 160,000 quite apart from those who travel from afar for its special health services. It employs over 6,000 staff, the majority of whom are professionally qualified and cover more than 40 specific disciplines. The annual revenue expenditure is approximately

£72m with a large capital programme in addition. Candidates are invited to apply in writing, giving evidence of the successful management of change in a difficult environment. They must be able to demonstrate leadership qualities with a multi-disciplinary team and a record of successful problem solving. Direct experience of budgetary control in a large organisation is essential.

A salary of around £30,000 is envisaged but will not be a limiting factor for the right candidate. Applications should be addressed to: L D Cowan Esq, Chairman, West Lambeth Health Authority, St Thomas' Hospital, London SE1 7EH. Further information may be obtained from the District Personnel Officer, on 01-928 9292 ext 2525. Closing date for applications is Friday 4th January 1985 and the initial interviews will be held in the week commencing 14th January 1985.

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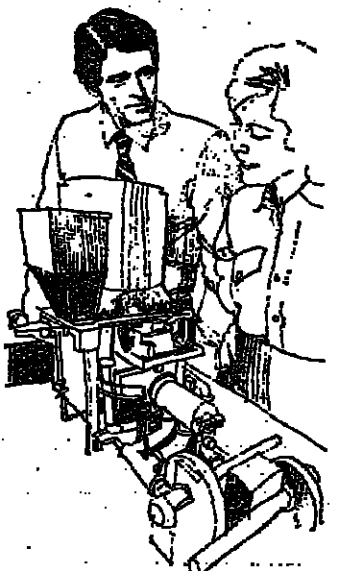
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Please send your C.V. to E.T.18758, Daily Telegraph, E.C.4.

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Transmission Products require a

Product Manager

Due to further expansion on the U.K., we are looking for a person who ideally should have the following attributes:

- Extensive sales experience within the engineering and white industry, covering both distributor and OEM outlets.
- Engineering qualifications equivalent to HNC level necessary for all types of drive design applications.

The successful applicant will report directly to the Sales Director and be made responsible for a specific range of transmission products covering the whole of the U.K.

In view of the fact that frequent contact with our research and development group is necessary, a reasonable knowledge of the German language would be helpful.

In return we offer a progressive salary and benefits package, backed up by a high quality product range that is widely acknowledged within the industry.

Please send a current C.V. and details of present salary to:

Mr. E. J. Jones, Director of Personnel,
CUB Limited, Technical Products Division,
Bakers Lane, Clifton Road, Rugby.

Continental

HIGH CALIBRE EXECUTIVE

for
Major Clothing Manufacturer based in Yorkshire

We are looking for a person with a strong production background, available to work in a modern, progressive environment. The successful candidate will be responsible for the overall management of the production department, ensuring that all production targets are met, and that the production process is efficient and cost-effective. The candidate should have a minimum of 10 years experience in a similar position, and should be able to manage a team of up to 50 staff. The salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Please send your C.V. to: Mr. J. H. Jones, Personnel Manager, 100, The Arcade, Leeds LS1 4JF.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

The present Secretary retires on 31st March 1985. Applications are invited for the position of

SECRETARY/MANAGER

As well as the more obvious aspects of the position, the successful candidate will be responsible for the overall management of the club, ensuring that all administrative and financial matters are handled efficiently. The candidate should have a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position, and should be able to manage a team of up to 10 staff. The salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Please send your C.V. to: The Chairman, Northamptonshire County Cricket Club, 100, The Arcade, Leeds LS1 4JF.

Shell U.K. Exploration and Production

QUALITY ASSURANCE ENGINEERS

Our position as one of the leading North Sea operators is built upon a remarkable record of past achievements in response to the engineering challenges encountered in such a hostile environment. We are now embarking on a new generation of projects and making a major investment in the development of five new oil and gas fields, fields which promise to pose even greater production challenges.

Clearly, if we are to be as successful in the future as we have been in the past, we need to maintain the highest standards of quality assurance throughout the design, construction and maintenance of our offshore installations and, with that in mind, we are seeking to recruit the following chartered engineers to join our project teams.

Head of Quality Assurance

In this position, you will be reporting to the Project Manager and dealing with both the preparation and implementation of Project Quality Plans and the evaluation and monitoring of Supplier Quality Systems. We believe that if you are to provide an effective service, you will need to have worked for at least 10 years' within

the processing industry and preferably, you will also have an understanding of offshore engineering and experience of fulfilling a Q.A. role within a project team.

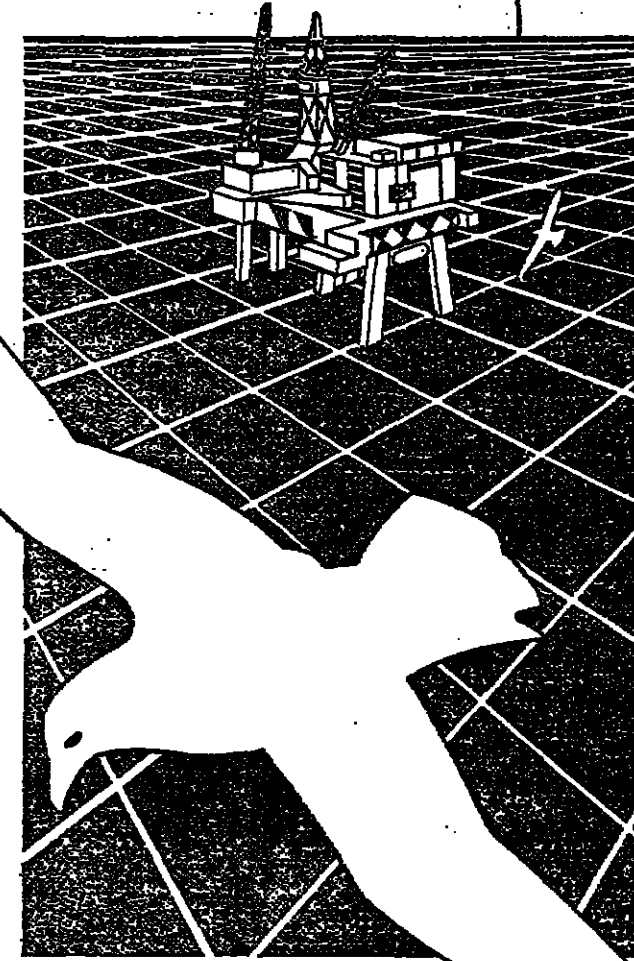
Quality Assurance Engineers

In these positions, you will be providing essential support to the Head of Q.A. in your particular project team and you will need to have had a minimum of 5 years' experience, similar to that required for the more senior position.

As these positions require a particular level of experience it is unlikely that we would be able to consider people under 30 years of age.

If you join us, you will enjoy a remuneration package which will reflect your important contribution to our future. In addition, you will be in a position to take advantage of the career opportunities that are being created by our achievements.

Please telephone 01-257 5001 for an application form, or write, enclosing a full c.v. to: Shell U.K. Exploration and Production, Attention: UEP152, Shell-Mex House, Strand, London WC2R 0DX. Please quote Ref: DT201284.



NEW GENERATION
NORTH SEA PROJECTS

OPERATIONS/PROJECT ENGINEER

Salary c. £13,000

Pirelli Construction is the principal installation organisation of the International Pirelli Group. We are currently recruiting for a technically challenging position within our Marine and Petrochemical Unit - an Operations/Project Engineer with offshore installation and construction experience.

Your participation will be required from the initial stages of contracts - the design of marine operations, preparation of tenders and other documentation - through to ensuring the efficient day-to-day running of installation projects.

The job is highly mobile, and extensive travel at very short notice is inevitable. Long periods away, perhaps overseas, will also occur and you must be prepared to live aboard ship and offshore.

Aged 30 plus, qualified to Degree standard in Electrical or Mechanical Engineering and Chartered, you must be capable of liaising with customers, sub-contractors and Pirelli staff on highly technical subjects.

Applicants must also be familiar with computerised construction systems and be able to administer varying sub-contracts. Please apply in writing, enclosing full career details to:-

Mr. P.J. Ridge, Staff and Training Officer, Personnel Dept., Pirelli Construction Co. Ltd., P.O. Box 6, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO5 5YE.

PIRELLI
CONSTRUCTION

Group Accountant

c.£18,000
plus car

Edinburgh

Our client is a long-established company of chartered, loss adjusters, which practices from a series of some 50 offices throughout the United Kingdom and overseas, providing a professional service to the insurance industry. The group wishes to make a new appointment of Group Accountant who will be responsible to the group Managing Director for:

- reviewing the financial systems and controls throughout the group
- providing management and financial accounting advice and services to the group Board

Candidates, preferably graduates in their thirties, must be qualified accountants able to demonstrate experience, at senior level, of systems development and general accounting, including the preparation of consolidated accounts, working within the disciplines of in-house computer systems.

The salary will be negotiable around that shown and the package also includes a company car, non-contributory pension and life cover and family private medical cover.

Please apply in confidence with details of your career giving a contact telephone number and quoting ref: 554/01 to: Brian Jones, Personnel Selection Division, Thornton Baker Associates Limited, 64 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 4ND.

GROUP PURCHASING EXECUTIVE

C. £20,000 + CAR

A significant career opportunity for a Purchasing professional has arisen in the Compair Group. The job is located at Group Headquarters in Slough and reports to the Group Director of Manufacturing.

The principal task will be to develop purchasing strategies and to ensure that appropriate strategic decisions are made and action is taken in respect of major commodities. These commodities include diesel engines, electric motors, control gear, heat exchangers and pressure vessels. The job involves negotiation with suppliers at a senior level and there is an international consideration which broadens the scope of the task.

I should like to receive applications from Purchasing professionals who have experience of strategic purchasing decision making, preferably in a large engineering group. Other attributes sought include the ability to work with senior management and purchasing and engineering staff within operating companies together with the ability successfully to plan and execute major negotiations.

Please contact me by letter or by telephone.

DR B. FARRINGTON,
29, HOWARDS LANE,
ECCLESTON, ST HELENS,
MERSEYSIDE, WA10 5HX.

Tel. 0744 23688

Specialists in Purchasing Management Consultancy and Recruitment

A New Year ahead!
Start it with a challenge

Process Plant Contracting Professionals

Babcock Woodall-Duckham are looking forward with a confidence created by a sizeable and growing workload.

We need a number of PRINCIPAL and SENIOR ENGINEERS in the following disciplines:

- Control and Instrumentation
- Electrical
- Plant Layout
- Piping
- Rotating Machinery
- Vessels
- Heat Transfer
- Package Plants
- Structural
- Civil
- HVAC and Building Services

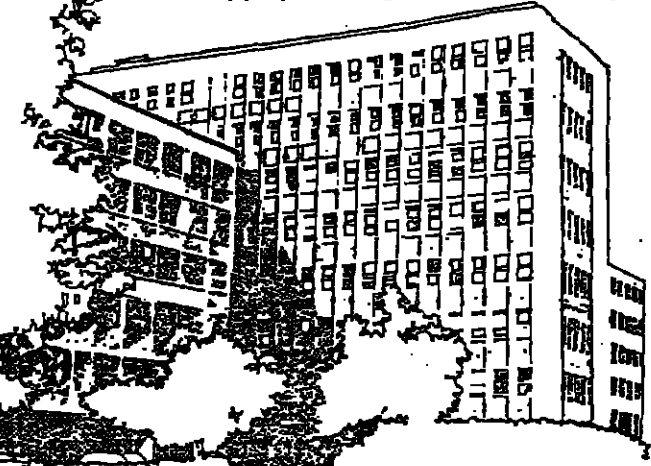
All applicants should have several years of recent experience in a contracting or process plant design environment, and should be qualified to HNC level. A degree and C.Eng. is strongly preferred for appointments as Principal Engineers.

In addition to the above appointments, we are also seeking a number of experienced PRINCIPAL and SENIOR DESIGNERS in all disciplines to strengthen our existing team.

Babcock Woodall-Duckham is currently applying CAD techniques in all aspects of its work. We are particularly interested in recruiting applicants who can add to this capability.

The employment package will include an attractive salary, pension scheme, 25 days annual holiday, pleasant working conditions and, where appropriate, a generous relocation package which includes a mortgage top-up scheme, where applicable.

Please forward your current C.V. (posting after Christmas) to: Mr. C. E. Foreman, Personnel Manager, Babcock Woodall-Duckham Ltd., The Boulevard, Crawley, W. Sussex RH10 1UX.



Babcock Woodall-Duckham Ltd

A member of the Babcock Contractors Limited Group

YOUNGMAN

TECHNICAL/QUALITY
MANAGER DESIGNATE

We wish to engage a person with a technical background having experience as a senior Quality Inspector who would be capable of taking over as Technical/Quality Manager in approximately 18 months time, when he/she will become part of the Technical Management team.

Ideally the person will be a qualified engineer aged between 35 and 45 years, well motivated and be effectively able to interface with shop floor operators, suppliers and customers. Manufacturing is primarily aluminium fabrication and timber conversion, therefore experience in these disciplines would be a distinct advantage.

The salary will be negotiated on the basis of experience, qualifications and future potential.

W. C. Youngman is part of the SCB Group of Companies, who manufacture and hire access equipment products.

For any further brief details and application form, please contact: Mrs E. Gillard on Crawley (0293) 234111.

ENGINEERS

Estimating
Contracting
Sales

In line with our steady expansion programme we need further Sales Engineers in our industrial pump and water and sewage project departments. Experience of centrifugal pumps and related industries is preferred. Internal and external visits are available. Initially both would involve work internally as part of a team preparing quotations for our comprehensive range of pumps. Salaries are negotiable based on experience and ability.

Apply to:

The Secretary,
SCB Manufacturing Co. Ltd.,
Thruke House, 612 Tabard Street,
London SE1 4JT.

FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS
APPEAR TODAY
ON PAGE 7

